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Islamic Affairs

Further on Islamic Arab People's Conference

Khalifah Meets Delegates

EA2804084791 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA)—The delegations of Palestine, Tunisia, Algiers, and Yemen, participating in the Islamic Arab People's Conference, have stressed the need for unity to solve conflicts in the Arab and Islamic region and that a comprehensive solution is the answer to achieving stability.

This came during the meeting of Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and vice chairman of the Political Committee, with the delegation members from these countries. He clarified to them that dialogue is one of the basic principles of the National Salvation Revolution's concept. He hoped this conference would benefit from the experiences of the dialogue conferences set up by the revolution to solve the internal issues of the Sudan.

'Arafat, Habash, Hawatimah Arrive

JN2604182891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrived in Khartoum today.

The three Palestinian leaders will participate in the Islamic Arab People's Conference being held in the Sudanese capital.

Al-Bashir Greets 'Arafat

EA2604101391 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Khartoum at 1000 today heading the Palestinian delegation taking part in the popular and (?Arab) conference which started its meeting today. Welcoming him at Khartoum airport was Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman; Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, RCC member; Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Hasan, RCC secretary general; and His Excellency Abu-Raja'i, ambassador of the state of Palestine.

'Arafat: 'Christian Plot' for Pakistan

EA2604210791 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Apr (SUNA)—His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat president of the state of Palestine, has warned about the imperialist-Zionist plot against the Arab and Islamic nations and revealed that he had information about a Christian plot aimed at destroying Pakistan's nuclear plant and [words indistinct] in both southern Sudan and [passage indistinct].

The Palestinian president suggested on behalf of his country's delegation that a permanent secretariat of the Arab Islamic conference be formed which would meet regularly to supervise the situation in the Arab and Islamic world. [passage indistinct] His Excellency Da'ud Musa, (?the leader) of the British Muslim delegation to the (?conference) praised the Palestinian president's suggestion. [passage indistinct]

'Arafat Addresses Rally

EA2904102391 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Struggler Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine, has said Khartoum will become the springboard for the liberation of Jerusalem. He said its [word indistinct] will be renewed in a stronger and tougher mold during the course of the popular Arab and Islamic conference.

His excellency said the war recently witnessed by the Arab nation had been aimed against the Iraqi people and its Army and concomitantly against the whole of the Arab and Islamic world. Addressing a mass political rally in Khartoum on 26 April, Mr. 'Arafat added that the new (?world) order had come to intimidate the peoples of the Third World. He stressed the need for solidarity and unity in the face of this trend.

Al-Bashir Meets Tunisian Delegates

EA2904111491 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council chairman, today met in his office at the Friendship Hall the Tunisian delegation participating in the popular Arab Islamic conference. His Excellency Muhammad Najib al-Shadhili, the delegation's leader, said that he wished Lt. Gen. 'Umar further success in implementing the Islamic laws and expressed to him his delight at participating in the conference and in visiting (?Sudan). [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Front Denies Refusal To Give Up Arms in Lebanon

JN3004175491 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1655 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Commenting on various reports disseminated by some news media about the position of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] concerning Palestinian weapons in Lebanon, a responsible source has stated the following:

The PFLP-GC is eager to underscore its previous support for the march of reforms and national reconciliation in Lebanon and for the associated steps made in the field, starting with the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan. We helped in everything that would push this march forward so that Lebanon can play an active role within its pan-Arab framework.

While stressing anew the importance of bolstering steps toward national reconciliation, we, proceeding from concern about the future of free, soverign, and Arab Lebanon, are making and coordinating efforts to achieve this Syrian-patronized pan-Arab objective, in a manner that guarantees the political and civil rights of the Palestinians in Lebanon. The report about the PFLP-GC's position concerning the issue of weapons in Lebanon is fabricated, chapter and verse.

'Arafat: PNC Session Preparations 'Under Way'

JN3004175691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] In a statement to be published in the east Jerusalem magazine 'ABIR, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that preparations are under way to hold a new Palestine National Council [PNC] session. 'Arafat added that there is a consensus on the importance of holding this session to review all events and developments and lay the foundations for new springboards of Palestinian action.

Central Council Views Wide Range of Issues

PM3004130991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi: ""Arafat Warned About His Aides' Advice"']

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Following the conclusion of the Palestine Central Council [PCC] meeting the various leading Palestinian circles emphasized the meeting's success in crystallizing a unified Palestinian position on all the issues currently raised at the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, first and foremost currents moves and U.S. proposals on a settlement in the Middle East region.

The circles pointed to the importance of the timing of that position, which comes in very delicate circumstances. In that regard Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PCC made several important achievements, including the unity of the Palestinian position, the rejection of a regional conference, the consolidation of Europe's position in any potential peace negotiations, and the improvement of inter-Arab and Arab-Palestinian relations.

He added that the PCC emphasized the need to realize Arab accord and bolster the Arab League and its role in realizing Arab reconciliation. He emphasized that the PLO will play a positive and effective role at the Arab foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Cairo on 15 May to realize Arab solidarity.

Qaddumi described Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas as very positive. Furthermore, he emphasized that the Palestinian card represents the only access for Europe to participate in resolving the Middle East problem, that the PLO is in turn wagering on the Europe card, and that the same applies to Europe.

With regard to the visit to Moscow by the Palestinian delegation headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the head of the PLO Political Department said that the PLO always coordinates with the Soviet friends over anything that concerns the settlement. He pointed out that the PLO was eager to hold a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh before his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in order to exert influence on, rather than be influenced by the U.S. side.

Informed sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that an approach supported by Yasir 'Arafat emerged inside the PCC which tried to persuade the participants to accept the regional conference idea and regard it a form of an international conference as long as Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Arab states attend it. But most of the council members rejected the idea on the grounds that Europe would attend as an observer, not as a participant. And because that regional conference excludes the PLO and the Palestinians of Jerusalem from participating.

Some participants strongly criticized the blocs policy. They criticized in particular the PLO's policy during the Gulf crisis.

A PCC member addressed Yasir 'Arafat, warning him about some of his advisers and expressing the hope that God would spare him the evils of their advice. He also suggested that 'Arafat should always work against the ideas they offer to him.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, summed up the results of the PCC proceedings in four points: The first was in dealing with the peace initiatives and the Baker plan. In that regard the PCC rejected the regional conference plan for three reasons: because it eliminates the UN role, because it overlooks Europe's and China's role, and because it excludes the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate representative.

The second revolves around the question of the Palestinian people's participation. On that question Hawatimah said: Regarding that subject, there was a heated discussion and a deep study of a document the conference had received from 34 nationalist figures, including mayors, in the West Bank and Jerusalem. This is in addition to another document from the Unified National Leadership [of the Intifadah] in the Gaza Strip.

That discussion resulted in a consensus over the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people and over deepening consultations and dialogue with the parties and figures currently not represented inside the PLO, including al-Sa'iqah [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]-General Command, Hamas, al-Jihad, and the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah.

There is now progress in the negotiations between the PLO and the [Palestine National] Salvation Front.

The third concerns Palestinian-Arab relations. In that context the policy adopted at the Palestinian level in the past period was criticized. Some criticized what they termed throwing ourselves into Egypt's arms, and others criticized commitment to the Baghdad bloc during the Gulf crisis.

The PCC decided that the PLO should commit itself to a balanced Arab policy and establish balanced relations with all Arab parties in accordance with Arab summit resolutions.

In that context it was agreed to make initiatives to normalize relations with Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan and to make endeavors to normalize relations with the Gulf states and all the other Arab states.

As for the fourth, it concerns Palestinian international relations. And with regard to that subject the council decided to activate relations with Europe, the Soviet Union, and China and to support French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative concerning the call for the prime ministers of the five permanent member states of the Security Council to meet to take decisive decisions vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the subject of finding successors for Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid] was raised among the leaderships in the Fatah movement on the basis that the question should be agreed within that framework before it is settled at the national level.

Two candidates were presented to succeed Salah Khalaf and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid. They are Khalid al-Hasan, who obtained 11 votes out of 18 inside Fatah, and Hakam Bal'awi, PLO ambassador in Tunis, who obtained five votes only, including that of Yasir 'Arafat [Abu-'Ammar]. And, as is known, Hakam Bal'awi is one of those who are very close to Abu-'Ammar.

A decision on that issue was postponed, but the intention is to secure a structural unification of the Palestinian security organ, which was distributed between the unified security controlled by Abu-Iyad and the central security under Abu-al-Hawl.

With regard to the assassination of Abu-Iyad and Abu-al-Hawl in Tunis, it was not broached at the PCC meetings.

The results of the visit to Syria by Umm-Jihad and her meetings with Syrian officials, to which she was assigned by the Fatah Central Committee, were reviewed during the meetings. The objective was to achieve reconciliation between Fatah and the dissidents.

The PCC paid attention to the results of the endeavors exerted to normalize relations between the PLO and the Gulf states. Hani al-Hasan's tour of some Gulf states was reviewed.

The issue of the confederation with Jordan was raised again, and so was the idea of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But the dominant tendency inside the council rejected that idea and called for a five-party move including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the PLO in order to coordinate positions and confront the stage ahead.

Some leading figures criticized the failure to implement the previous decisions and the fact that some leading Palestinian elements had exceeded the institutions' decisions.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Talks in USSR

PM3004155791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi: "Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Emphasized to Bessmertnykh That the PLO Insists on Full Soviet and European Participation"]

[Text] Tunis—In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department, who returned yesterday from the Soviet Union, where, as part of a Palestinian delegation, he met with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, has stated that the Palestinian delegation passed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker via the Moscow meeting our views on all issues raised, especially on two fundamental points which are:

1. Palestinian representation, which can only be full and equal representation through a Palestinian delegation consisting of members from inside and outside [the occupied territories].

2. The international peace conference should be based on international legitimacy, that is, on UN resolutions including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the Palestinian delegation stressed to the Soviet foreign minister that the PLO wanted the Soviet Union and Europe to play a full role in supervising the peace process with the United States, and that Soviet, European, or, generally, international participation in the international conference should not be merely ceremonial participation, as Israel wants.

'Abd-Rabbuh noted that the Soviet Union is as responsible as the other Security Council permanent members for implementing the legitimate international resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East and for not

allowing an international conference to become a mere formality not based on international legitimate resolutions.

The Palestinian official said there was Soviet-Palestinian identity of views and understanding on all the main points.

He said that the Palestinian delegation again raised with Bessmertnykh the threat posed by the emigration of Soviet Jews, who are already being concentrated by the Israeli occupation authorities in the area of Jerusalem with a view to changing the demographic character of the area and expanding settlement there. There is a Soviet responsibility where that serious and essential issue is concerned, he said, because that emigration is taking place at the expense of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and the Soviet Union has a role to play in protecting the Palestinian people's rights.

The head of the PLO Information Department said the Palestinian delegation made discontinuation of settlement in the occupied territory a top priority as an imperative prelude to the start of any peace process in the region.

In this interview, the first since his meeting with Bessmertnykh in Moscow, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the progress sensed by the Palestinian delegation was very limited because of Israel's intransigence and the lack of any serious pressure on Israel, which is trying to give priority to peace with the Arab states and to freeze discussion of the Palestinian question in order to gain time and impose a fait accompli. He added that only a more effective U.S. and international stance could break that rigid Israeli position. 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed the vital importance of a unified Arab stance and of the restoration of Arab solidarity for the protection of the Palestinian national rights. That is why, he said, the Palestine Central Council emphasized two main points during its latest meeting in Tunis: The need for a meeting of the Arab states concerned with a political solution, including Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO, to unify their positions on the foundations and conditions for an international peace conference on the basis of Arab and international legitimacy, and, as a second point, the need to restore Arab solidarity and prevent the Gulf crisis from becoming an obstacle to a unified Arab stance involving all parties. The current discussions on the question of an international peace conference do not only concern the Arab confrontation states, he said, and will have a far-reaching effect on the entire Arab situation, which means that this is a comprehensive Arab responsibility.

He said that the PLO was currently making extensive efforts to normalize inter-Arab relations in general and Palestinian-Arab relations in particular, especially with the all the main Arab parties in the Gulf, and in the Arab East and Maghreb.

In reply to a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the receding Soviet role and the effect of that on Moscow's position in any likely peace conference on the Palestinian question and the Middle East, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: True, there is a new world situation, particularly in connection with the roles of and relations between the superpowers, but the Soviet Union still has vital interests in the Arab region, and so has Europe. Therefore Soviet security and international security require a balanced and just peace in the region. Furthermore, Moscow and Western capitals believe that a U.S. monopoly of supervision of a solution would paralyze the peace process and open the way to greater conflicts and explosions in the Middle East.

'Abd-Rabbuh affirmed that the Palestinian delegation received confirmation and assurances from the Soviet foreign minister that the restoration of Soviet-Israeli relations would be linked to a start of the peace process and the convening of an international conference.

Asked if the Palestinian delegation's talks with Bessmertnykh, which coincided with the presence of Baker in the Soviet Union, were tantamount to some kind of indirect negotiations between the United States and the PLO, 'Abd-Rabbuh simply said: Certainly our meeting with Bessmertnykh took place one day before his meeting with Baker, an indication that the United States was interested in knowing the Palestinian views on the various aspects of the peace process.

He added that the Soviet Union believes that the peace process cannot take place without the full participation of the PLO.

Algeria

'Peaceful Character' of Nuclear Effort Viewed

LD3004123891 Algiers APS in English 1045 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Algiers, 30/04/91 (APS)—Having been for a long-time the privilege of developed countries, nuclear technology is becoming within developing countries one of the main priorities of their socioeconomic development programme. Algeria, like many other countries interested in the acquisition and mastery of nuclear technology for peaceful aims, set up in collaboration with some countries, a series of programmes in terms of nuclear research having no purpose but its development.

Hence was created in cooperation with Argentina "Nur" reactor conceived for training technical and scientific staff, fundamental and applied research in the field of nuclear physics, nuclear engineering and small production of radioisotopes to use them for medical, scientific and industrial purposes.

In its efforts of mastering leading techniques in terms of nuclear research and exploring all fields related to its development, Algeria undertook, since several years, [as received] studies in this regard in various sectors such as industry, agriculture and health through the use of the radioisotopes and nuclear radiation.

As for food and agriculture fields, nuclear research allows, for instance, to resolve numerous problems related to agricultural production, food products' consumption, the protection of crops, as well as animal production as health.

Algeria's efforts are particularly aimed at rejecting all propositions of any controlled installations that could inevitably lead to a total dependence in terms of leading technology since the notion "technological transfer" still remains a delusion for many developing countries. These efforts also enabled the creation of a research and researchers' city in Ain Ouassera in 1983 to ensure the blossoming of scientific and technical research in aid of economic, social, and cultural development as stipulated in the issued decree of the official paper of October 83.

Considering nuclear technology as a mainspring of all other technologies, and developing a policy of cooperation with all advanced countries in this field, and ready to an effective participation of Algerian executives, Algeria undertook with China whose scientific cooperation lasts since a long time, the setting up in Ain Ouassera of a reactor of research and production of 15 megawats power using a weak enriched uranium fuel. [sentence as received] This reactor however is still being built up.

The objective of cooperation in the field of nuclear energy either with Argentina or China, reflects thus, an exclusively peaceful character.

The committment of using this reactor for peaceful purposes is strongly asserted by scientific research services that specify that the entire matter is about being provided with a civil nuclear technology in the sole purpose of mastering the application of nuclear energies within the scope of development.

Therefore, there are [word indistinct] guarantees and the very International Atomic Energy Agency "recommends a physical protection in view of the noticeable property of a nuclear installation. [no closing quotation marks as received] Guarantees of using this reactor and the peaceful intention that was actually shown, could not at any time undergo any confusion. Therefore, any nuclear installation could be submitted to an international control only if the concerned country wishes to upon a voluntary and sovereign basis.

Renewal Party Meets on Coming Elections

LD2604092791 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpts] In preparation for the forthcoming legislative elections, which our country will be embarking upon for the first time in the era of pluralism, the Manzah residence hosted the meeting of the consultative council of the Algerian Renewal Party. Leader of the party Nourreddine Boukrouh talks to our colleague Malika Boumazouza.

[Begin Boukrouh recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Algerian Renewal Party is meeting today at Manzah residence for a session of our party's consultative council to specify the means of covering the whole of the national territory—all the electoral departments. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Regarding the developments experienced by the group of seven plus one after the withdrawal of the Solidarity and Development Party and Majd Party from the group, Nourreddine Boukrouh said the following:

[Begin Boukrouh recording] In fact, there has not been a retreat in the group of eight parties, or seven plus one. The group of parties met over two points: namely, opposition to the existing regime, and ways of holding fair legislative elections. Following that we tried within these parties to agree on a general strategy for the legislative elections, so that these elections would not be confined to the two axes. The idea of creating a third axis was put forward. Now the last meeting was held two days ago. The leaders of six parties met, and agreed to allow other parties in, because other parties are willing to join us. We have also created a special committee, a technical committee, that will study ways of cooperation in the sphere of elections. [end recording]

Libya

Talks With Portuguese Minister Reviewed

LD2504224691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Apr (JANA)—Libyan Arab-Portuguese talks were held at the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation today to bolster cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Portugal in all spheres. The talks were attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Planning, and a number of experts and technocrats; the Portuguese side was represented by Joao de Deus Pinheiro, minister of foreign affairs; Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and the accompanying delegation.

Brother Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, made an address at the beginning of the meeting, in which he asserted the importance of bilateral endeavors to consolidate relations and implement agreements. This visit will contribute to the improvement of relations between the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] and Europe, in general; and West European countries in particular, he added. The Great Jamahiriyah thinks that the consolidation of those relations will contribute to the creation of an Arab-European understanding on a number of issues, as well as open new opportunities for more contacts, he asserted. He pointed out that it is worthwhile for Libya, the AMU, and Europe to contribute to the consolidation of security, peace, and cooperation, as we have a better understanding of the importance of creating peace in the region, as well as economic and political cooperation.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation pointed out the need to exert more efforts in the interest of everyone, and to contribute together to bring about a new international order that would implement international legality equally for everybody, a matter which needs the creation of a necessary balance in all spheres. He pointed out that recent events and developments in the world make bilateral cooperation a necessity. He stressed the desire to continue the development of bilateral relations and contacts between the Great Jamahiriyah and Portugal, and to open new vistas for economic, social, cultural, and scientific cooperation, which all have a special importance given the circumstances in the region.

The brother secretary stressed the need for the Libyan Arab-Portuguese joint committee for economic and social cooperation to meet in order to determine spheres of cooperation, given our belief that the great Jamahiriyah will contribute to the advancement of Arab-European relations for the sake of clearer and more fruitful relations for all. He concluded his address by stressing that the Great Jamahiriyah is very eager to preserve security and stability in this region, a matter which cannot be achieved except through the cooperation of the Great Jamahiriyah, Portugal, and the rest of the powers in the region.

Joao de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese foreign minister, also gave an address, in which he conveyed the greetings and appreciation of Portuguese President Mario Soares to the brother leader of the revolution, wishing him more progress and prosperity, and asserting his country's sincere desire to bolster its relations with the Great Jamahiriyah in all fields in such a way that would meet common interests and consolidate security and peace in the Mediterranean. He pointed out that his country will exert efforts aimed at bolstering EEC relations with the AMU. Portugal thinks the great Jamahiriyah, which chairs the AMU, is able to develop such cooperation, given its excellent reputation at all international bodies. The Great Jamahiriyah is more qualified than any other country to contribute to the creation of an Arab-European dialogue able to achieve common interests of the region's peoples, who have ancient historical and cultural links.

He pointed out his country's desire to bring forward the date of the meeting of the nine countries of the western Mediterranean; his country, he asserted, supports the Great Jamahiriyah's efforts to convene such a meeting, because of its belief in the paramount importance of such a meeting and its positive outcome. He pointed out that his country will work with the Great Jamahiriyah for security and peace in the Mediterranean region, a matter which will contribute to the development of the region and the creation of exemplary cooperation between littoral countries of the Mediterranean. He said that Portugal will work for an early meeting of the Libyan Arab-Portuguese joint committee to determine the spheres of cooperation, and will strive to make such cooperation exemplary, given Portugal's belief that the Great Jamahiriyah plays a fundamental role in any Arab-European cooperation.

Today's meeting was an opportunity to examine a number of issues of mutual interest. Stress was made on the need to implement UN resolutions on everyone and on all issues, to implement international legality on all issues, and not merely on one case. The need to preserve the integrity and intactness of Iraqi territory, and not to exploit the crisis, was also underlined. The need to convene as early as possible a meeting of the Libyan Arab-Portuguese joint committee to determine the spheres of cooperation was affirmed, as was the need to hold the meeting of the group of nine western Mediterranean countries not later than June to set up a program for comprehensive cooperation between the countries of the region.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Daniel Ortega

LD3004222191 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista front, who briefed him on the latest developments in Central and South America.

Daniel Ortega arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, leading a delegation of the Sandinista front.

Morocco

Portuguese Foreign Minister Begins Visit

LD3004132391 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro arrived in Morocco this morning on a working visit to our country. The Portuguese official was received at Rabat-Sale airport by Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; the Portuguese ambassador to Morocco; and a number of dignitaries.

Meets King Hassan

LD3004150391 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan—may God make him victorious—received at the royal office this afternoon Mr. Joao de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese foreign affairs minister, who is on a working visit to Morocco, accompanied by his country's ambassador to Rabat, Mr. Jorge Rito.

Departs Morocco

LD3004212291 Rabat Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The Portuguese foreign minister left Morocco this afternoon after a short working visit to our country. In a statement at Rabat-Sale Airport, he reaffirmed that his talks in Morocco were very positive and that, in addition to bilateral relations, they dealt with relations between the Maghreb countries and the EEC and also relations between European countries of the Mediterranean basin and the Maghreb countries. The head of Portuguese diplomacy pointed to the decision by the Moroccan authorities to facilitate the procedure of granting entry visas to Portuguese nationals, which is liable to encourage Portuguese tourists to visit Morocco this summer. The Portuguese official pointed out that his talks with his majesty the king dealt with several issues concerning the Middle East, the Arab Gulf, and the situation in Southwest Africa.

Fourth Financial Protocol Signed With EEC

LD3004154291 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The fourth financial protocol between Morocco and the EEC for 1991 to 1996 was signed yesterday in Brussels. [passage omitted]

The total value of this protocol, which will take effect on 1 November, is 438 million European currency units, equivalent to approximately 486 million Moroccan dirhams.

The fourth financial protocol will consolidate the policy adopted by Morocco in its economic reforms and will make it possible to finance production projects in Morocco.

The value of the fourth protocol is an increase of 35 percent in comparison to the third protocol for 1987 to 1991, which will end on 31 October. [passage omitted]

Unions Plan Labor Day March Despite Ban

LD3004155591 Rabat MAP in English 1403 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 29 (MAP)—The unions 'Confederation Democratique du Travail' (CDT) and 'Union Generale des Travailleurs du Maroc' (UGTM) said Monday they would stage on Labor Day a joint parade to follow the initially announced itinerary in Casablanca.

The unions associated with opposition parties said in a press conference in Rabat they would go ahead and tour the main avenues of Al Fida-Derb Soltane in Casablanca in spite of the ban by local authorities.

The heads of CDT and UGTM Abderrazak Afilal and Noubir Amaoui argued the unions were not informed of the ban on the parade and the chosen itinerary till Saturday Apr 27, 1991.

The two major trade unions decided for the first time to hold a joint parade on Labor Day to be celebrated Wednesday May 1st.

December Rioters Sentenced to Prison

LD2706091291 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The 42 people arrested following the bloody events marking the general strike of 14 December 1990 were sentenced yesterday by the Fes criminal court to prison terms ranging from four months to 10 years. Six other accused were acquitted.

Sudan

Libyan Army Commander Meets With Al-Bashir

EA3004195691 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 30 April (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, received yesterday the visiting Libyan delegation, headed by member of the Libyan historical leadership, Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces.

The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations, particularly the relations between the two Armed Forces.

Addresses Conference

EA3004200091 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] [passage indistinct] He [Libyan Armed Forces Chief Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir] [words indistinct] the political forces in Sudan to keep in step with the progress of the Sudanese people. He said that the Jamahiriyah was with Sudan in entrenching the power of the people. His excellency said in his speech to the constituent national conference on the political system: We shall play our part in rallying the ranks and supporting the progress of the masses, hopeful of seeing a united Sudan.

Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis added that Sudan under the National Salvation Revolution would achieve the dream of generations and the hope of its people, martyrs, and militants to free its will and strengthen its productive capabilities. His excellency reiterated the Jamahiriyah's support for Sudan, saying: We are with them shoulder to shoulder in integration as a step forward on the road of unity and shall struggle together to achieve overall Arab unity to maintain our national existence and protect our present and future.

His excellency said: We in the Jamahiriyah are confident that the leadership of the National Salvation Revolution, by convening this conference, is starting a historic process to entrench the pillars of the people's power [words indistinct] partisanship and tribalism, thereby establishing the power of the people already being exercised through the popular conferences and popular committees. He stressed that Sudan was quite capable of entrenching its own power.

Western Sahara

Polisario Welcomes UN Plan for Referendum

LD2904225391 Madrid Domestic Servie in Spanish 2100 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council has just approved a plan for the decolonization of the Western Sahara. Seventeen years after the Madrid agreements, under which Spain gave up its former colony, and after an equal number of years of war with Morocco, the Saharans have the opportunity to decide their future in a referendum to be supervised by the United Nations. [passage omitted]

The Polisario Front, through its representative in Madrid, (Hassad Hamid), has expressed its confidence in UN mediation for the referendum to be held with the proper guarantees.

[Begin (Hamid) recording] We very much trust in the measures that will guarantee the clean and clearcut holding of the referendum. We also very much trust in our people, as in the guarantees that the organization is undertaking for freedom and fair play in the referendum. [end recording]

In his statement, the Polisario Front's spokesman says that the UN decision has not come too late after all, although a smaller cost in life would have been possible if a cruel war had not been going on for 17 years.

[Begin (Hamid) recording] It is regrettable that so many people have had to die to arrive at the 1975 starting point after all. I think, however, that a decision of this type is still opportune if it allows the Western Sahara conflict to be solved definitively and allows the Saharan people to exercise their full rights. [end recording]

Polisario Representative on Peace Process Moves

LD3004174491 Paris International Service in French 0530 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The peace process in the Western Sahara is now on track: As expected, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Javier Perez de Cuellar's plan yesterday; a plan which the UN secretary general would like to see reach its conclusion before the end of his mandate, in other words before the end of the year. [passage omitted]

The Polisario Front is expressing satisfaction with this plan. Having said this, its implementation looks likely to come up against some difficulties, in particular the famous electoral register. Listen to what the Polisario Front's representative at the United Nations said about it to (Michele Ravelle):

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Polisario representative]: The commission would first of all carry out the academic task of separating the lists, to see which people have died, and which are of voting age, then they will send a small mission to the refugee camps, to the territories, to make direct contact with the population. The stage of the completion of the lists should be carried out within the next (?seven) weeks, but the business of linking each person with his name and then supplying him with a voting card would be done after the cease-fire.

[(Ravelle)] The Moroccan troops will mainly be stationed along the wall. Will that pose problems for you?

[Polisario representative] They will be stationed at points along the wall or in their barracks in two or three towns of the Western Sahara. That certainly poses problems, but in our opinion the United Nations has done everything it can to insure that these forces do not constitute a form of military pressure on the Saharan population. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia

UN Role Seen as Key To Settling Kurdish Issue

PM3004142591 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 26 Apr 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Baghdad Agreement... and Credibility"]

[Text] If the intentions are sincere with regard to what was announced the day before yesterday about an agreement in principle between the Iraqi president and the Kurdish opposition on normalizing the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, then it can be said that one of the biggest tragedies is on its way to extinction. But for numerous reasons, opposition circles inside Iraq, especially in the south; and abroad, especially in London; and Western diplomatic circles are dominated by a wave of caution and suspicion about these reports. The reason is that no one is prepared to ignore a long history of treaty violation linked to particular symbols of power in Iraq.

Without getting into details that could take us back to the atmosphere of the crisis that has weakened the Arab homeland with wounds which will heal God only knows when, present international efforts—despite their cautious observation of developments in the Kurdish negotiations with Iraqi officials—have now moved toward making the United Nations the safety valve for the entire operation. So if there is any form of relief operation currently carried out by troops belonging to various nationalities, that situation will be handed over to the United Nations so as to internationalize work in a legal way that would gain the same credibility granted to the Desert Storm operation to end the aggression against legitimacy and international law in the Arabian Gulf region.

Even the Kurdish oppositionists who doubt the benefit of what has been reached in Baghdad believe that nothing can end their doubts and suspicions about Iraq's commitment to what has been agreed, except an UN guarantee.

Perhaps this result prompts us to prove one theory, namely, that under the new world order the United Nations has secured a bigger and more effective role than at any time in its history, especially its history of dealing with the region. The method of internationalizing regional problems and the problems of the minorities is the most successful means to end the severity of these problems. Perhaps the sincerity of intentions to which we referred earlier will become a reality that will enforce the law in this troubled region which is flowing with contradictions, in order to realize for Iraq what has been unanimously agreed by world states, namely the need to safeguard its territorial integrity and refute the concept that led to the violation of legitimacy during the crisis, and will at the same time become a good start for opening a new page in the region's history.

SPA Updates Oil Clean-Up Operations

LD3004105591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Al-Dhahran, 30 Apr (SPA)—During the aerial survey operations carried out by the Pollution Response Center of the Department of Meteorology and Environmental Protection, a spread of glittering surfaces and lines of oil were observed in the northern part of Saudi waters in the Arabian Gulf, particularly east of Safaniyah and Manifah. In addition, a large number of glittering oil surfaces in Dohat al-Duffi and the Gulf of Mardumah were observed, together with light oily lines coming from the north.

The crew of the survey aircraft reported that oil is still leaking from three sources in Kuwaiti waters and that there is some leakage from the platform of the Murjan oil field. They also observed oil slicks in the northwest area of the Murjan oil field. They pointed out that oil is still leaking from the oil platform north of the Gulf and that oil was witnessed near al-Ahmadi port.

Within the context of the operations carried out by the Response Center, technicians are still containing the oil using floating barriers in the Manifah region in preparation for collecting it. The department's teams in the Ras Balbul region are continuing operations, where they have gathered 502 barrels of oil. The site has received 3,200 meters of floating barriers to consolidate the operations.

Last Sunday 720 barrels were drawn from the Gulf of Brays and a further 500 barrels were drawn yesterday. On al-Qirmah Island the teams have cleaned an area of 2,000 square meters of vegitation, and operations continue in the northern and southern parts of Kiran Island.

There are plans to begin other operations in the Gulf of Tanajib.

The Saudi Aramco teams gathered 9,624 barrels of oil, and the total gathered by Saudi Aramco has reached 822,269 barrels. Since 12 April, Saudi Aramco teams have worked in two new sites in the regions of Tanajib and Manifah where there is heavy oil.

Yemen

Political Parties, Organizations' Bill Discussed

EA3004105691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] This morning, the Council of Representatives continued the first meeting of the second annual convention under the chairmanship of Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man. The council continued its debate on the report of the committee for public freedoms and human rights on the bill governing political parties and organizations. The members expressed their views on the report and on the bill governing parties. Our colleague Ahmad Fad'aq has written on this topic, and his comments are read to you by Salim bin Shu'ayb.

[Shu'ayb] The views expressed stressed that Yemenis had the right to form political parties and organizations and that every Yemeni had the right to belong to any political party or organization under the Constitution and the provisions of this law, provided such political parties or organizations pursued their activities peacefully and democratically with a view to adopting specific, publicly declared programs on political, economic, social, and cultural affairs germane to the Republic, with the aim of participating in political and democratic life with a view to exercising or participating in authority peacefully by way of free and fair general elections. The political parties and organizations will participate in the achievement of political, economic, social, and cultural progress for the homeland, entrenching national unity by exercising democracy in observance of the principles enshrined in the Constitution concerning (?the formation of) political, national, popular and democratic organizations aimed at organizing and politically representing the citizens.

The council submitted the views expressed on the seventh article of this chapter, which refers to the conditions governing the establishment of political parties and organizations and the activities of such parties and organizations, to the committee on public freedoms and human rights for study and subsequent submission of the committee's conclusions to the council. The council will continue its debate on the bill on political parties and organizations during meetings to begin tomorrow, Monday, 29 April.

Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, opened the proceedings yesterday with an important address in which he said steps had been taken for a referendum to be held on the Constitution. He said that while the council had been on vacation, 31 laws had been issued. They had been issued by virtue of their great efficiency concerning the vestiges of separation and elimination because some of the laws were sovereign [li'an ba'd al-qawanin siyadiyyah]. [sentence as heard] He expressed the hope that the council would study these laws and act to finalize them in view of their importance.

He said the economic issue was an important one on which the Council of Representatives would have to cooperate with the government and adopt a responsible attitude, as the Council of Representatives was not the council of the opposition but one of the authorities of the executive, legislative, and legal arms of the state. He said: We in the Presidential Council bear the responsibility of exercising legislative authority as provided for under the Yemeni Constitution, and thus, of legislating and exercising vigilance. Accordingly, any financial or administrative corruption, any bribery or embezzlement within the administration must be dealt with by the council with a view to setting matters right while it is the government's duty to cooperate with the council in this respect. No one may abdicate his responsibilities, not the Presidential Council, nor the council of ministers, nor the legislative authority, as regards any economic problem.

The brother chairman also referred to the difficulties arising from the return of the expatriates, the shortage of commodities, and the scantiness of exports. He said it was up to the council to take steps to solve these problems. He warned that hostile forces could exploit this economic situation to implement their aim of splitting national unity. He stressed the need to exercise democracy without such activities being exploited in the form of harmful acts by means of demonstrations and strikes. He said: We have unified the two parts, the parliaments of the two parts, the armies of the two parts, the people of the two parts, and the security of the two parts in order to build a new, centralized, and strong Yemeni state. He said: It is up to us always to support the Council of Representatives.

People Urged To Vote

JN2304111291 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The Presidential Council met yesterday under its chairman, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The Council discussed internal and external developments. In light of the current measures to hold the popular referendum on the Republic of Yemen's Constitution, the Council discussed all the ideas and observations concerning the Constitution. At the end of the meeting, the Council issued the following political statement:

Statement from the Presidential Council to the masses of the Yemeni people: [passage omitted] The Presidential Council, while following up the current discussion on the Constitution before the referendum on it is held, emphasizes its commitment to the sound bases and democratic and moral principles of constructive and positive dialogue. While reiterating its respect for all views represented within the framework of the main principles that have already been emphasized, the Council addresses this statement to the sons of the Yemeni people in order to clarify matters and remove any ambiguities concerning the meaning of certain clauses. The Council stresses the commitment of the political leadership and all constitutional establishments to the following:

1. The Republic of Yemen Constitution is the lawful Constitution covering the entire transitional period, based on its ratification by the Peoples Council and the Consultative Council, which approved the Constitution and the proclamation of the Republic of Yemen in accordance with the supreme national interest.

2. The Islamic Shari'ah, with its noble teachings and the broad mentality of our Islamic religion, is the source and basis of all legislation in the entire Republic of Yemen. Therefore,

A. Under no circumstances will any legislation be issued that would violate, contradict, or conflict with the idea of God and the tradition of his prophet.
B. Any legislation that contradicts the rules of the Islamic Shari'ah is considered null and void.
C. Passing the Constitution by means of a popular referendum definitively and categorically invalidates all laws or decisions passed by the two parts of Yemen before unity or by the leadership of the Republic of Yemen that contradict the Islamic Shari'ah and the provisions of the Constitution, including anything pertaining to liberties and rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

3. The republican system is the basis of the system of government that has realized the most important Yemeni people's gains represented by unity, democracy, and development, and which is connected with the aim of the Yemeni revolution and our people's aspirations, particularly the adoption of democratic and peaceful dialogue, considering political pluralism to be the basis of people's participation in government, and consolidating the basis of the constitutional government.

4. Giving all citizens who participate in the Constitution the opportunity to express their opinion and observations on the Constitution or any of its provisions. This will be done during the referendum when every citizen will be able to express his opinion on the Constitution by completing a special form. The Presidential Council will refer these observations to the elected House of Representatives, which will have the right to change, amend, or repeal the Constitution. These observations will be discussed in its first session.

While stressing the principles, bases, and commitments that are mentioned and reiterated in this statement because they form the common view of everyone in the Yemeni state and society and which represent the unchanging national basis that was and still is the strong framework and common denominator of the struggle of the contemporary national movement, the Presidential Council appeals to the people to go to the referendum centers on the fixed date to vote on the Constitution in total freedom and in light of the provisions of this statement. [passage omitted]

Decree Issued

JN2604064491 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, yesterday issued the Republican Decree on Law No. 52 of 1991 concerning local administration. Republican Decree No. 48 of 1991 was also issued. It invites citizens to vote on the referendum on the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and sets an additional period for registration and enlistment.

Article I reads: Citizens in all constituencies are invited to vote on the referendum on the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen on Wednesday and Thursday, 1 and 2 Thi al-Qi'dah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 15 and 16 May 1991. The voting starts at 0800 Wednesday. Article II stipulates that the period of registration and enlistment shall be extended for five days starting on Friday 14 Shawwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 26 April 1991, and ending on Tuesday 15 Shawwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 30 April 1991. This extension, which is intended to allow those who failed to register their names so far to do so, shall be considered an amendment to Republican Decree No. 24 of 1991. The higher committee of the referendum is authorized to make the necessary arrangements to implement this decree.

Republican Decree No. 49 of 1991, establishing a general organization of free zones, was also issued yesterday. It stipulates that a public organization, called the general organization of free zones, be established. This is a legal entity, financially and administratively independent. Articles II through VIII of the decree defines the organizations' objectives, jurisdiction, and tasks.

Republican Decree No. 50 of 1991 was also issued yesterday. It provides for the formation of the board of directors of the general organization of free zones. An executive chairman, a vice chairman, and five members of the board were appointed.

Salih on Domestic Politics, Arab Ties

JN2904152091 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] In an interview with an Austrian television team, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has declared that the problems facing the Republic of Yemen are basically inherited from colonialism and imamate rule. He said the political leadership, government, and all state institutions are aware of the economic problems and will work using all means to contain them and to end the crisis. He declared that the orientation now is toward agricultural and industrial production and the exploration of national raw materials, such as oil, gas, and other minerals, which, he said, we hope will give Yemen a prosperous and promising future. This will be done by intensifying all efforts toward the extraction of resources and by effecting a comprehensive agricultural development, he explained.

In the interview, the chairman of the Presidential Council further explained that the Republic of Yemen has good relations with all brothers in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world and with many friendly states. He added: We are looking forward to the termination of the rupture between some Arab brothers and to the healing of the wounds caused by the Gulf crisis. The brother president called for reviving Arab solidarity and ending the peripheral differences that existed before the Gulf crisis. He called for efforts by Arab brethren to revive Arab solidarity and rebuild the bridges damaged by the Gulf crisis.

The brother president expressed regret that many world media organs had distorted Yemen's position on the Gulf crisis. These media, he said, misinterpreted the policy of the Republic of Yemen, on the basis that he who is not with us, is against us. In this regard, he stated that Yemen had denounced Iraq's presence in Kuwait. He said in the first and subsequent meetings between the political leadership and Iraqi officials and through all statements and communiques, Yemen called for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and of foreign forces from the region.

Replying to a question on steps to establish a broad-based national front in Yemen, the brother president said: We do not want to circumvent democracy through the dictatorship of any party. In fact, we want this experience to succeed. During the next period, we will work with all political forces in the country and with all political figures and organizations to establish a national Yemeni coalition among political parties and organizations.

The brother president declared that the Constitution provides for the transfer of authority to take place peacefully and democratically, and that the Yemeni people reject violence, any kind of violence. He said there is nothing called north and south as such; the Yemeni people are one people, from the east of Yemen to the west, and from north to south.

Salih Meets 'Arafat, Reaffirms Support for PLO

JN2704151691 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received today brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. Discussions focused on developments in the Palestine question in light of current efforts and activity in the region, in addition to new issues and developments of interest to our Arab nation and the march of our joint Arab action.

The brother president again reiterated our country's support for the Palestine question and the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to regain their rights and establish their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. He said that solving the Palestine question on a just basis guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination, and constitutes the real basis for stability, peace, and security in the region.

The president stressed our country's concern to exert efforts by cooperating with all its brothers to restore Arab solidarity, mend differences in Arab ranks, and overcome the disputes and alienation among brothers resulting from the Gulf crisis. He noted the importance of turning a new page in inter-Arab relations to achieve the supreme interests of our Arab nation, bolster the unity of Arab ranks and solidarity, and push fraternal relations toward new horizons of cooperation and integration that would fulfill the nation's goals of unity and progress.

The meeting was attended by brother Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister for internal affairs; Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister for defense and security affairs; Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa; and Colonel Abu-Humayd, commander of the Sabra Camp.

Sudanese Minister Meets Al-'Attas, Departs

JN3004193491 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today received Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad.

They discussed bilateral relations and means to promote them, as well as Arab and African developments.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Culture Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi and the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

The Sudanese minister of culture and information and his delegation left Sanaa. He was seen off by the minister of culture, a representative of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

IAEA Asks To Inspect Nuclear Facilities

AU3004132691 Paris AFP in English 1251 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Vienna, April 30 (AFP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has asked Iraq for permission to inspect the country's nuclear facilities, an agency spokesman said here Tuesday.

The inspection is intended to assess Iraq's military nuclear potential, with a view to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 providing for the destruction or removal of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. The proposal followed additional information on the number and type of its nuclear installations supplied on Monday by the Iraqi Government at the request of the IAEA.

The agency had judged insufficient an initial letter sent in reponse to Resolution 687, which required Iraq to furnish full information on its nuclear, chemical, biological and missile capabilities. The additional letter provides a "clearer working base," the spokesman said.

The agency had been particularly concerned over the condition of fissionable matter after Iraq said in its first letter that all of its nuclear research and development facilities had been destroyed by allied bombing during the Gulf war.

Sources close to the agency said that the Iraqi letter confirmed the necessity of making an on-site visit to examine the condition of the fissionable material and to see how closely it could be approached in safety.

The IAEA has until May 18 to communicate its conclusion to a special committee established by Resolution 687 which is responsible for on-site verification of information furnished by Iraq and supervision of the destruction or removal of the arms in question.

The nuclear section within the committee was to be headed by a Soviet representative, agency sources said.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on International Issues

JN3004162691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting attended by Vice Presidents Taha Yasin Ramadan and Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf and Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi. The meeting was also attended by Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn, and Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi.

The discussion dealt with the latest international developments.

Chairs Ba'th Regional Command Meeting

JN3004203991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2033 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Meets Officials, Public in Al-Ramadi

JN3004170991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has stressed that Iraqis are determined to build, scores of times, what the villains have destroyed in Iraq. During his visit this morning to the city of al-Ramadi, capital of al-Anbar Governorate, the president said that the might, pride, and high values shown by Iraq were much greater than the material losses.

During his meeting with state and party officials and the citizenry in al-Ramadi, the leader president added that real destruction is that of souls and faith, God forbid, not material destruction. The Iraqis have always been honorable, he said, although they lacked many material things that others enjoyed in life. God willing, the people remain dignified and faithful.

The leader president went on: Thanks be to God, there are more virtuous people. When organized, evil prevails over disorganized good. But when good wakes up and organizes itself, it kicks evil out. This is what happened when the villains took the good people by surprise. But when the good people woke up, they beat the villains.

The leader president spoke about what he had been previously hoping for the Iraqi capital in comparison with some other capitals. He said: What I was hoping for Baghdad at the time was the model I had in front of me, (?Damascus and Cairo), a state above dream and vision. This state remained as such until July 1968. Some time after that, work began to be highly professional, and Baghdad became more beautiful and more meaningful than any other capital.

The leader president asked: What made the material aspect rise to this level? It is the spiritual, moral, and intellectual aspect, not the theoretical one. He added: When ideas became exalted, man was elevated to a high spiritual level in his beliefs and his hopes for his people. What happened has happened; and all this assembly of evil was so resentful that they came to destroy what was built. In Iraq now, there is belief and determination as well as experience. We therefore will build scores of times what they destroyed, God willing.

The leader president addressed officials at the governorate's administration saying: Love your people, and express this through political terms. God willing, this will be the fence that will protect you and your principles. Then everything you want to achieve will be possible and easy, God willing.

The leader president then ("visited) the governorate's police headquarters to salute thousands of the sons of the city of al- Ramadi who came to welcome him and express their love and pride in his leadership and their joy at his visit to their city.

Hammadi: Nation Seeks Arab Solidarity, Unity

JN3004134991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1329 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi today said that in its Arab and international relations, Iraq looks to the future, not the past, and seeks to bolster the Arab League and support all that may achieve Arab solidarity and the unity of Arab ranks.

During a meeting with two delegations from the national committee of Tunisian lawyers and the Tunisian association of young lawyers, Hammadi added that Iraq's policy stems from determination to build a lofty edifice for the Arab nation. He said that the international changes that accompanied and followed the crisis require a huge amount of Arab solidarity.

He praised the states that supported Iraq during its confrontation with the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Flour Rations Increased to 8 Kg Per Month

JN0105065091 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 29 Apr 91 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] Baghdad (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the citizen's ration of flour be increased from 7 kg to 8 kg per month.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih said the new increase will be effective as of the June rations, and added that the Trade Ministry will prepare them for the citizens during the month of May after the distribution of May rations. The minister added that distribution of the May rations is about to end in several governorates. [passage omitted]

Al-Da'wah Party Rejects Kurdish-Saddam Agreement

NC2904153991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Formerly Voice of Free Iraq]

[Text] The Islamic al-Da'wah Party has reiterated its rejection of the agreement that was recently reached between Kurdish parties and the tyrant's regime. The party said that any solution to the Kurdish problem cannot be undertaken as long as tyrant Saddam Husayn stays in power. The party said that Saddam always seeks to represent his country's problems as being Kurdish or Shiite or related to Iran, Kuwait, and Turkey.

Dr. Haydar 'Abbas, the al-Da'wah Party's official spokesman, today called for resolving the Kurdish problem within the Iraqi context, stressing that the opposition is committed to Iraqi unity under the role of a single government. He added that the government of Iraq should be based on free elections and on a new constitution that guarantees the freedom of the press, parties, and minorities.

Dr. 'Abbas said that the armed struggle against Saddam's regime is continuing in various parts of the country, noting that the regime's forces are gradually collapsing and that a large section of al-Basrah is in the hands of the popular uprising.

Dr. 'Abbas called on the international community not to deal again with Saddam Husayn until the opposition achieves its goals.

Ibrahim Speaks on Ba'th Party Anniversary

JN2904182991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Tikrit, 29 Apr (INA)— 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and secretary of the Regional Command, this morning chaired the annual meeting of the cadres of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Addressing the meeting coinciding with the auspicious birthday of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, he said this year's observance by Iraqis of his excellency's birthday comes amid militant circumstances the like of which Iraq has not experienced in many years.

Thanks be to God and thanks to the president's leadership, he added, Iraq has managed to stand the test of the ordeals of a treacherous, all-round aggression that targeted, among other objectives, the person of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The RCC deputy chairman said sacrifice has always been a trait of reformers, leaders, and the select few. Never before in history has there been a model of sacrifice as these ancient people who have offered evertything in the cause of the dignity and sovereignty of the homeland and so managed to emerge from a major conspiracy. [passage omitted]

Yemen's Salih Cables Saddam on Birthday

JN3004172391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Apr 91

["Text" of congratulatory cable from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, to President Saddam Husayn—date not given]

[Text] His Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic: On Your Excellency's 54th birthday, it pleases me to send to Your Excellency the warmest and heartfelt congratulations, coupled with the best wishes to you in person for full

health, happiness, and well-being, and for the fraternal Iraqi people continued progress, prosperity, and happiness. With my best regards.

[Signed] Lieutenant 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen.

Paper Decries French, British 'Evil Intentions'

JN0105100891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0644 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—In an article today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH denounced the French and British Governments' aggressive approach against Iraq, and their evil intentions to encroach on Iraq's security and sovereignty.

The paper notes: France's proposal to hold a consultative session of the UN Security Council five permanent member states and Britain's proposal to install an international police force in northern Iraq constitute a continuation of their aggressive approach even after the cessation of military operations.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that these two nations, which have a deep- rooted history of persecuting people since they were colonialist states that usurped the wealth of other nations, seek to turn the world back to the era of the hateful colonialist hegemony, which is rejected by civilized nations.

The paper wonders: What is the meaning of exploiting the results of the military aggression against Iraq—a member of the United Nations—to interfere in its domestic affairs?

The paper stresses that this interference in internal affairs—on which an agreement between the Iraqi Government and the sons of our Kurdish people has been reached—is meaningless, and that the attempt of France and Britain to impose an international trusteeship on an Iraqi domestic affair is also illegal and meaningless.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: This threatening colonialist approach will not prevent the peoples of the earth from demanding their rights. The torch of freedom will continue to burn regardless of the new and old colonialists' attempts to snuff out its light. All attempts to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty will be foiled.

Battles Between 'Popular Army,' Government Troops

NC3004191991 Paris AFP in English 1805 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, April 30 (AFP)—Units of Iraq's popular army, refusing to turn in their weapons to the authorities, have clashed with government troops in southern Iraq in the past 24 hours, a key Iraqi opposition group said on Tuesday.

The fighting broke out in 11 towns, including al-'Amarah, al- Samawah and al-Tannumah, according to a communique issued by the Damascus-based office of the Organisation of the Islamic Action (OIA) of Ayatollah Muhammad Mudarrisi.

Baghdad announced last week the disbanding of the popular army, which is several million strong.

But units of the force "refused to turn in their weapons to the authorities, thus provoking the clashes," the statement said.

It also reported that rebel forces in the holy Shiite town of Karbala' earlier in the day attacked positions of the ruling Ba'th Party, "killing a large number of loyalists, including 'Ali al- Mas'udi, one of those in charge of executing" anti-government forces.

Other units attacked an office housing internal intelligence officers in Baghdad, killing several agents, including the base commander, it said.

"Nine (party) officials and officers were also killed and several others wounded" in an ambush on a military convoy north of Karbala', the statement added.

Shamir: Progress Possible 'Even Without Syria'

TA3004183091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the settlement issue belongs to the second stage of the negotiations with the Arabs, when the permanent solution for the territories is discussed. Bringing the subject up at this early stage, Mr. Shamir stressed, is not helpful because the issue is emotionally charged.

The prime minister made those remarks during a meeting with U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, who is currently visiting Jerusalem. During the meeting Mr. Shamir emphasized that progress can be made in the political process, even without Syria, which is the country holding the most extreme positions. Even a partial solution, Shamir stressed, would constitute progress.

AL-SHA'B Editorials View Baker Visit

Agreement Called 'Deceptive Peace'

TA3004141891 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "A Phony Flexibility!"]

[Text] The current differences between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his foreign minister, David Levi, over the latter's agreement with his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, on the "regional" conference—which is expected to serve as a framework for direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel—are no more than a new Israeli attempt to market the "regional" conference. This is being done by hinting to the Arabs that disagreements exist among Israel's leaders and that what was agreed upon with Levi came about only as a result of U.S. pressure. The Arabs, therefore, must seize the present opportunity and accept the regional conference in accordance with the agreement reached between Levi and Baker, despite the fact that that conference circumvents the international conference, which alone is the appropriate framework for establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

The five points on which Baker and Levi are said to have reached agreement still fail to address the facts. This is an exercise in trickery and deception and a waste of time, because those points have no relation to the core or the roots of the conflict. Neither withdrawal from the occupied territories, nor the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, nor the status of Jerusalem were mentioned in those points. Rather, the agreement dwelt only upon secondary issues that are unconnected to the core of the conflict. Israel and the United States emphasized the need to improve the Palestinian residents' living conditions, as if the conflict will be resolved by improving the conditions of the occupation, not by ending the occupation and granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights. Hence, the American-Israeli peace, as it appears in the Baker-Levi points, is no more than a deceptive peace that seeks to draw the Arabs to the negotiating table. It hints at the existence of flexibility in the Israeli position in order to gain more concessions from the Arab side and to give legitimacy and permanence to the occupation.

Israel Waiting for U.S. Elections

TA2504153291 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Apr 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Missing U.S. Pressure!"]

[Text] On the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming visit to Israel, which will be his fourth in less than two months, it is worth noting that Israel's leaders are uttering statements and adopting positions which unequivocally indicate their retreat even from the "regional conference," which is basically an "Israeli product." The conference concept has not and will never receive a positive Palestinian or Arab response as long as Israel pursues the Camp David approach, keeps ignoring the PLO's role, and disavows Palestinian national rights.

Israeli insistence on rejecting any UN or EC participation in this conference is in keeping with Shamir's conception, which fails to see the facts and cannot respond to the requirements of peace.

This Israeli rejection of UN and EC participation, in addition to ruling out the participation of Jerusalem residents in any future negotiations, clearly and unambiguously indicates Israel's persistence in putting spokes in the wheels of the peace process. This also indicates a lack of any serious intent by Israel to advance the peace process, so that its desired objectives may be realized.

This Israeli rejection reminds one of how the Israeli positions retreated on Shamir's initiative and the issue of the proposed elections in the occupied territories. Shamir did not conceal his desire to hold these elections according to his own perception, stressing that if the elections resulted in the victory of pro-PLO Palestinians, he would not hesitate to abrogate these elections.

Procrastination by Israel's leaders, as well as their provocative foot-dragging by asking for clear answers to a European and UN participation in the proposed regional conference; their rejection of any PLO role in this conference; and their insistence that this conference be confined to an opening session only; all these reveal the desire of Israel's leaders to waste time and keep the PLO in the circle of illusions, so that the U.S. elections will approach. At that time, the U.S. Administration will not be able to apply any pressure on Israel's leaders to force them to make concessions in return for those made by the Arab side for advancing the peace process.

President 'Arafat warned yesterday of the perils of the Israeli games, which are being encouraged and rewarded

by the U.S. Administration, revealing U.S. double standards. He described Baker's visits in the region as an endeavor to cure cancer with aspirin.

While we await with further skepticism Baker's ability or his real desire to surmount the Israeli barrier of intransigence, which refuses to respond to the requirements of peace, at the same time we warn of squandering the available opportunity for establishing peace in the region. If this opportunity is lost, the region will be driven into a cycle of despair, and the ensuing tensions will deprive the region of peace for many long years.

Ne'eman: Outside Nuclear Help Considered

TA0105101191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 May 91 p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] Israel is considering building a nuclear reactor with the help of other countries, Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman told the Knesset yesterday. He did not specify which countries might be involved.

Ne'eman, addressing the Knesset on his ministry's activities, said, "It is conceivable that Israel will build a plant with partners or foreign advice. We have to build primarily on the basis of Israeli know-how, and get as much help as possible from the outside."

But "there is no clear decision on the construction of a reactor," he said. "The ministry is considering possibilities."

Ne'eman said a private Israeli investor was deliberating whether to import a Soviet-manufactured 15-megawatt atomic reactor for use in purifying water. He mentioned that the ministry would attach a large water-purifying plant to the planned second coal-generated power station in Hadera.

Israel was successfully developing its shale oil reserves and was on its way to building two 120-megawatt power plants fueled by shale oil, he said. These will be the first of 10 such plants scheduled for the coming years. He said that by the year 2003, shale oil would provide 10 percent of Israel's energy needs.

Ne'eman said Israel was not counting on solar energy for the time being because it was five times more expensive than conventional processes. Private Israeli companies, he noted, built 95 percent of the solar energy facilities in the world, and one of these companies, Ormat, is currently building a plant in Antarctica.

Coal will account for up to 70 percent of Israel's electricity production by the turn of the century, he said.

Lebanese Collaboration With 'Terrorists' Alleged

Four 'Terrorists' Released

TA2504115491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Apr 91 p 2

[Report from the North by Shim'on Weiss]

[Excerpts] Lebanese Army soldiers yesterday released four Palestinian terrorists who were apprehended earlier this week when they were on their way to carry out an attack, evidently in Israel. The four, members of George Habash's organization, were released after Lebanese Army personnel disarmed them and took the ammunition they had.

It has been learned that Hizballah members and Shiite notables from the area north of the security zone are furious with the Lebanese Army for apprehending the four terrorists, regarding the move as an act of betrayal and collaboration with Israel. [passage omitted]

It has meanwhile been learned that separately from the incident early this week, Lebanese Army commanders have announced their intention to dispatch another 15,000 troops to southern Lebanon to help take over the area north of the security strip. This transfer will take place in the next few days.

It has also been learned that frantic activity and high alert have been observed in the terrorist outposts and bases north of the security zone for fear of the Israel Defense Forces and South Lebanese Army reprisals, and mostly air raids.

PLO Operations From South Lebanon

TA0105052791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Lebanese Government will permit the PLO to operate against Israel from southern Lebanon. This was reported by military sources to our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. The arrangement with the PLO forms part of the agreements on the continued activity of the militias in Lebanon, as part of which the PLO has undertaken not to operate in other parts of Lebanon except the south. The Lebanese Army is expected to deploy in areas surrounding Beirut for the first time in 16 years, areas which have thus far been controlled by Druze and Christian militias.

Ministry Plans 24,000 Housing Units in W. Bank

TA0105090491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 May 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpt] Documents compiled by Construction and Housing Ministry teams from the central district reveal that the ministry intends to build 24,000 housing units in the West Bank, which will accommodate 88,000 Jews.

A letter, which has reached HA'ARETZ, written by Hayim Zimmer—the official in charge of the central district public institutions and accompanying development at the Construction and Housing Ministry—details a construction program in a series of settlements in east Samaria. In this framework, 10,400 housing units for 38,000 new inhabitants will be built in the settlement of 'Ofarim, in which 14 families live at present; in the nearby settlement of 'Aley Zahav, 1,700 units will be built for 6,200 new inhabitants; in Brukhin—2,800 housing units for 10,220 inhabitants; in Avney Hefetz—2,100 units for 7,665 inhabitants, plus 3,500 more apartments housing 12,000 residents in the settlement's southern part; Ari'el will grow by 2,700 housing units, which will accomodate 10,260 new inhabitants.

This data was included in the summation letters from the Construction and Housing Ministry's district official in charge of public institutions, to the interministerial committee debating the erection of public buildings in townships in which expansion is planned. The debates were held just before and during the Gulf war and were entitled: "The Updating of Programs for Public Areas in the Wake of a Growth in Housing Units." The minutes of the debates were sent to Yehuda Me'iri, Construction and Housing Ministry's Central District director.

One of the issues raised in the committee's discussions was the establishment of religious institutions. In Brukhin—also called 'Aley Zahav East—10 lots for religious institutions were allotted for a total of 10,220 inhabitants: two dunams for a main synagogue; two one-dunam lots for two large communal synagogues; six half-dunam lots for each of the additional communal synagogues; and a one-dunam lot for a ritual bath.

HA'ARETZ correspondent's request for comment on the data was ignored by the Construction and Housing Ministry. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 1 May in a page 2 report by Mikhal Sela' adds: "The expenditures involved in the establishment of the settlement of Revava—with the exclusion of mobile homes and infrastructure—stand at 300,000 shekels. This data is specified in a letter sent by Arye 'Ofri, deputy head of the Samaria Regional Council, to Ze'ev Haver, the secretary general of Gush Emunim's Amana [settling body]." The report adds that Knesset Member Dedi Zucker, who published the letter, notes that the above amount "is but the partial cost of the establishment of the settlement," and that the main expenses are those for "infrastructure, access roads, mobile homes, personnel, the wages of the reserve soldiers who will be assigned to guard the place, and so forth."]

Patrol Reportedly Fired on From Jordan 30 Apr

TA0105051291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] There was another incident along the Jordanian border in which shots were fired near al-Hammah al-Samra' last night at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol moving near the meeting point of the Israeli-Jordanian-Syrian borders. No one was hurt. Hayim Hecht, our correspondent in the North, adds more details:

[Begin Hecht recording] The shooting occurred near the meeting point of the Jordanian-Syrian-Israeli borders, but it is evident that the shots came from Jordanian territory. Just before midnight, several magazines of automatic gunfire were shot at an IDF patrol moving on the defense track. No one was hurt. The soldiers on the patrol returned fire toward the source with all the weapons they had. The initial investigation showed that there was no attempt to breach the border fence or penetrate Israeli territory. Yet particularly after the case of the terrorist who hid in the orange grove and the resultant dismissals of some officers in this sector, no one is taking any chances. The area was illuminated for a long time with dozens of flares as the soldiers conducted searches.

The settlements on the southern slopes of the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley were placed on alert until the early morning hours.

It was obvious to us, a senior officer in the area told us, that the problem was not eliminated upon the death of the terrorists at Neve Ur. The Jordanian side is apparently teeming with madmen armed with Kalashnikovs and Korans looking for a loophole to infiltrate Israel. The Jordanian Army's mission to stop them, he said, is no mean feat; yet our mission is 10 times more difficult, he emphasized, since the distance between the border fence and the settlements is very short. [end recording]

IDF: No Shots Fired From Jordan

TA0105091991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] debriefing following the incident in the vicinity of al-Hammah al-Samra' indicates that there was no shooting from the Jordanian side at all, but that a mine went off between the border fences. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the searches on our side continued this morning, but that there was no special activity on the Jordanian side. The mine may have been activated by a wild boar.

Central Bank Governor Warns of Unemployment

TA2404131691 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Excerpts] The country is on the road to massive unemployment and large-scale emigration, unless there are major government policy changes, the governor of the Bank of Israel warned yesterday.

In a strongly-worded special report—"A Plan to Absorb One- Million Immigrants"—Governor Mikha'el Bruno

analysed the state's failure to adopt economic policies necessary to absorb the wave of immigrants, and he outlined steps that must be taken immediately.

The report forecasts that, at best, unemployment will reach 12-14 percent in the next few years.

But if the government fails to attract investors to the country, or is unable to raise enough capital in world markets, unemployment figures will hit 16-18 percent. This will drive tremendous numbers of new immigrants and young people to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

Central bank economists predict that 150,000-200,000 Soviet immigrants alone could leave in the next few years—15-20 percent of those that come here.

The report touches only briefly on housing, but Bank of Israel economists predict a shortage of 90,000 units by 1992. This would gradually be alleviated by 1995. [passage omitted]

He also attacked the government's propensity for policy "zig- zags"—instead of setting a stable, long-term economic course to promote investor confidence. Bruno was especially harsh in criticising [Finance Minister] Moda'i's latest proposal to cut unemployment by asking firms to absorb 50,000 workers at government expense. [passage omitted]

Highlights of the Bank of Israel plan include: a big budget increase to develop the infrastructure; a detailed plan to make business more profitable; a program for price stability; a short- term program for to boost employment; a plan to encourage investment; a balanced budget by 1995.

Central bank economists argue that if the government adopted the plan in its entirety, investment would rise tremendously to give an average growth rate of 9 percent in the 1991-1994 period.

But the report also warns that the plan would mean a drop in the average standard of living for several reasons—including a rise in personal taxes and a drop in average wages.

The bank says, however, that the country will need to borrow $25 billion on world capital markets during the next four years, and it paints a considerably less rosy picture if the necessary cash cannot be found.

Central bank officials laid emphasis on their plan to increase employment. This mainly aims to make labor cheaper for employers. The plan includes:

—A 4 percent cut in employers' National Insurance Institute payments.

—Getting Histadrut agreement to suspend collective agreements on special night shift pay for new employees.

—Adding "flexibility" to the labor market including changes to the minimum wage laws.

—Requiring those on unemployment payments to do 30 hours public service each week—such as caring for the elderly, guarding schools, doing environment work, or even road-building and other tasks to help develop the infrastructure.

Moda'i Rejects Forecasts

TA2504102891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Apr 91 p 6

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Excerpt] Bank of Israel Governor Mikha'el Bruno's warnings of an impending disaster on the absorption front drew a scathing response from Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i yesterday, who scoffed at Bruno's forecasts and rejected his doomsday predictions.

He also confirmed reports that the government would institute large-scale infrastructure development projects, but would not say how much money would be put aside for this.

"We are in the midst of a tempest in a teapot ... this time concerning immigrant absorption, with all sorts of statements being made by experts and so-called experts," an audibly angry Moda'i told a convention of insurance agents in Jerusalem yesterday.

"The common denominator in all of these seems to be who is most successful in making the situation look as black as possible, and instilling in the hearts of the citizens of Israel, as well as entrepreneurs in the country and abroad, as many doubts and fears as possible," he continued.

"Someone comes along and puts together some numbers—that have absolutely no basis in fact whatsoever—and announces to the country that we are headed straight for unemployment levels of 18 percent or 200,000 emmigrants."

The Finance Minister rejected Bruno's statement that very little of his September economic plan had been carried out, and listed the parts of the plan that had been put into action. He blamed the Gulf crisis and the rush to approve the state budget for the fact that other parts of the plan had not been accepted by the Knesset.

Moda'i also reiterated his intention to resubmit most of the plan to the Knesset, but said that this would not include the proposed change in capital- market tax policy, a statement that drew applause from the audience.

As for Bruno's accusation that the government has been zigzagging on the economic front by jumping from plan to plan, Moda'i angrily refuted this charge. He insisted that he still stands by his original plan of September 1990, and his most recent proposal of asking firms to absorb 50,000 workers at government expense was in addition to the earlier plan—not in place of it. [passage omitted]

Shekel Devalued 3 Percent Since 19 Apr

TA2404135291 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Apr 91 p 20

[Report by Ya'ir Fidel and Gabi Bashan]

[Excerpt] Since last Friday, the Bank of Israel has devalued the shekel by three percent against the U.S. dollar. Yesterday the shekel was devalued by 0.61 percent against the dollar, and by 0.18 percent against the currency basket. The dollar rate yesterday stood at the 2.2970 shekels, and the basket at 2.4406. [passage omitted]

40 MK's Form Anti-Syria Golan Heights Lobby

TA2404134291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Forty Knesset members [MK's] of all parties in the house have joined a Golan Heights lobby, whose slogan is: Returning the Golan Heights Should Under No Circumstances Be Discussed With the Syrians. The lobby is headed by MK Shlomo Hilel of the Alignment.

Sami Bar-Lev, head of the Qatzrin local council, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that plans are being made to expand the lobby to include 70 MK's, so as to prevent any political move whatsoever that is based on returning the Golan Heights in exchange for a peace treaty with the Syrians.

AL-FAJR Editor Defends Political Plan

TA2304200291 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Apr 91 p 12

[Article by AL-FAJR editor Radi al-Jara'i: "Following Up on the Calculation Between the Wheat Field and the Threshing Floor"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The controversial article which I published was a political analysis of the post-Gulf war situation in the region. Some continue to insist that this war has not introduced any noticeable changes to the region, while I believe that it has introduced fundamental changes that should be absorbed and dealt with. This does not mean that we have to accept these changes.

From this premise, I proposed several practical steps as a plan for the Palestinian political movement under the present critical circumstances, and because I believe that this plan constitutes an appropriate mechanism for the Palestinian initiative launched by brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Geneva in 1988. This plan also constitutes an appropriate means for taking the initiative into our own hands in order to generate momentum toward a just solution of our problem.

The ideas proposed in my article were neither a response nor a reaction to the requirements of an American or Israeli solution, as some tried to depict them; rather, they represented a Palestinian vision of reaching a just and lasting solution that restores to us our basic rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. If we know what we want, we then can determine the best ways to achieve it. I have no illusions whatsoever about Israel's acceptance of the proposed ideas. It is not necessary that whatever we propose be acceptable to Israel, nor is it necessary that whatever Israel proposes be acceptable to us. But in political combat, each side tries to convince the international community of its own viewpoint and gain the widest support for it so that this constitutes a pressure on the other side. This will cause a shift in the balance of power, and the viewpoint will acquire special importance. Today, after the end of the cold war and the Gulf war, when international attention is focused on international legitimacy as the judge in international and regional disputes, international interests are more interwoven today than in the past, and world stability or instability affects the interests of many countries of the world.

Following the Gulf war, we are sensing an interest—regardless of the intentions—in discussing the Palestinian problem and peace in the Middle East. If we remain spectators, we will definitely be the losers in the political game, whether this game produces anything tangible or not. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us—since the talk is over our fate, the Palestinian people inside and outside the territories—to state our views and define what we accept and what we reject. Moreover, we must put forward our own political strategy that contains a suitable mechanism and that can be implemented in order to achieve our goals. Here, we are proposing ideas. It is the right of our leadership, which has the decision-making authority, to accept, reject, or develop these ideas for the national interest and in accordance with its own perspective.

The fact is that the proposed ideas are directed first and foremost at the Palestinian people—leadership and masses—secondly at the international community, and thirdly at the Israeli public. In my opinion, these ideas are a challenge to peace and a demand to deal with our problem with the same standard with which the Gulf crisis was dealt.

I put forward my ideas as an integral unit and set conditions for their implementation, but unfortunately some of the brothers and colleagues took some of the ideas out of context and judged them. Some thought the article proposed a plan for democratization, while in fact this was not the article's purpose. The fundamental issue is the political movement's steps.

Others saw the issue as a mere elections plan and wondered: Does this article seek to raise doubts about the PLO's legitimacy or support for it? In fact, the concept of elections for the Palestine National Council [PNC] appears in the article in order to provide a suitable mechanism for a Palestinian political move. Elections are not required as such, but they are a protest

plan to the concept of elections proposed by the notorious Shamir plan. Moreover, they are a protest at the concept of municipal elections which Israel began to propagate in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Israel would then say that this is an elected leadership representing the residents of the occupied territories, thus ultimately excluding the PLO from any political move.

Whereas, in the event that elections for the PNC are held—assuming that the proper conditions are provided—and its members are from inside and outside the territories, this will be in practice an embodiment of the Palestinian people's unity in their legislative institution. In this case, the PNC will become more powerful and effective. This proposal does not signify doubt in the legitimacy of the present PNC or undermining the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people; rather, this is an attempt to develop our national institutions and national thought, which ultimately serves our inclination in achieving our legitimate national goals.

In the event that the PNC elections are held specifically in the occupied territories—and this is an assumption—it will be necessary to take the following steps, namely the establishment of a provisional government or a government-in-exile, and engaging in dialogue with Jordan over the future relationship between Jordan and a Palestinian state following independence.

I think that anyone who refuses to deal with the concept of negotiations is in total contradiction with the Palestinian initiative and the PNC resolutions. He has to decide whether the PNC resolutions are binding or not, whether he believes in political action alongside militant activity, or whether he refuses to deal with politics. He should proclaim this publicly, although I consider it to be a grave mistake, because there is no war for the sake of war. War is meant to achieve political goals, so much so that some military experts define war as the "roaring policy." Violence is not required as such, otherwise it becomes in effect terrorism.

If we accept the concept of negotiations—and this is what the PLO has done—we must define our perception and the framework of this concept, on what basis it can be implemented, and the mechanism for implementing or achieving this concept.

As to the brothers, sisters, or colleagues who protested the timing of the presentation of such ideas, I tell them that our problem is on the agenda. Should we wait for our clothes to be designed for us by our enemies? Then if we wear them, it will be a tragedy, and if we do not, the tragedy will be greater. Therefore, in my opinion, this is a very appropriate time to put forward these ideas and state our viewpoint and perception of a just and lasting solution for our problem.

As to those who say that time is working in our favor, I believe that the opposite is totally true. Intensive Jewish immigration, increased confiscation of land, settlement, and changing the facts on the ground, all of these are not in our favor. This is why the present Israeli Government engages in foot-dragging and tries to reinforce the status quo. How then is time working in our favor? I cannot find a logical and convincing interpretation for this.

As to those who have charged that the ideas which I have proposed are in line with the U.S.-Israeli scheme to seek alternatives to the PLO, I really do not see any justification for this either on the political or moral level. Neither do I wish to change the issue into a personal affair. The issue under discussion is a national issue that is outside the personal framework. I consider the ideas which I have put forward as belonging to the masses, so that these ideas would be discussed and developed in a way that would serve the national cause. These ideas are not the private sector's domain. Ultimately, the final and decisive word about all the proposed ideas belongs to our legitimate leadership and our legislative and executive institutions. Today this decision is in the hands of our brothers in the Central Council, convened now. They have to decide.

Paper: Palestinians Want To 'Normalize' Life

TA2604092591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

["Analysis" by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpt] Palestinians regard the decision of the PLO-aligned Unified Leadership this week to open restaurants all day as a sure sign that it wants to normalize the aridness of Palestinian life. The daily half-day merchant's strike—one of the pillars of the intifada—may also end soon, according to knowledgeable sources.

Despite the arrival of Secretary of State James Baker, the smaller factions of the PLO have not yet distributed their customary leaflets opposing any meetings with him.

After Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] violently imposed a general strike on Wednesday to protest Baker's visit, the Popular Front and the Democratic Front are apparently treading water, anxious not to be seen as camp followers of the Islamic fundamentalists.

The strike was well-observed, but in Ramallah, at least, Hamas threw a stone through one pharmacy window to encourage others to shut shop. Pharmacies are generally allowed by the PLO-allied Unified Leadership to stay open during strike days.

"Alliances keep drifting. Radical elements in the leadership are moving closer to the moderates because of Hamas. They are relieved after the central council decisions calling for self-determination, an international conference, and the right of return," said Samir Rantisi, a local journalist. [passage omitted]

Israeli Official on Relations With Hungary

LD2304174291 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0650 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Interview granted by Dr. Yosef Govrin, deputy director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, with special responsibility for Eastern Europe, to Istvan Kulcsar, in Jerusalem; date not given; Govrin's remarks in English, with superimposed Hungarian translation; "Foreign Political Observer" program]

[Text] [Kulcsar] Dr. Govrin, what place does Eastern Europe, Hungary in particular, occupy in Israel's foreign policy?

[Govrin] As you may well know, the process of reestablishing relations between Israel and certain East European countries, including Hungary, started even before the establishment of diplomatic relations. I think that Hungary's distancing itself from Soviet influence, and the process of democratization your government has begun, have definitely accelerated the process of the restoration of full diplomatic relations. I would also mention the very important factor that Hungary, just as other East European states, has, according to all the signs, recognized and admitted that the breaking of relations at the time did not promote either bilateral relations or the Middle East peace process. Quite the contrary, I might say.

The picture that has evolved of Israel as a small country that has survived disaster, as a country that has achieved significant results in the fields of technology, science, agriculture, and medical science—this positive image—has probably also contributed to the re-recognition.

As far as our present relations are concerned, they are characterized by the ever-increasing ties which now by far surpass the level attained at the time of the first period of the earlier Hungarian-Israeli relations. This applies to the political dialogue as well. I think that both in Budapest and Jerusalem the possibilities are much more considerable, greater, than the level attained at present, and it depends on us, the two sides, how many of these we can realize in our bilateral relations.

[Kulcsar] In your opinion, what could be done in the interest of further deepening Hungarian-Israeli relations?

[Govrin] Since there is good will on both sides, and since there is the necessary basis, nothing more is needed than a readiness for initiative, and then we will be able to realize all these possibilities. We lost many, many—nearly 40—years. That is why it is not so easy to catch up on all this now. But if we take this task seriously, then in my opinion we can boldly state that a bright future awaits Hungarian-Israeli relations.

[Kulcsar] Dr. Govrin, I have heard that you will shortly be visiting Budapest. What is the purpose of your visit?

[Govrin] As you probably know, Dr. Alfoldi, the then-Hungarian deputy state secretary for foreign affairs, visited our country last year to exchange views on political issues. We agreed then, and this was a very good idea, that in future we would confer at least once a year in order to continue exchanges of views about our bilateral relations, the events taking place in our countries' territories, and in general, about European developments, including both Eastern and Western Europe, and naturally Central Europe as well.

[Kulcsar] Since we have mentioned Eastern Europe, the region's leading big power—which is at the same time one of the superpowers, the Soviet Union—is today perhaps the only country in Europe not to have full diplomatic relations with Israel. In your opinion, how long can this state of affairs be maintained?

[Govrin] Well, it's true what you say, but it doesn't depend upon Israel. If you want to know my opinion, then largely it is no less in the Soviet Union's interest than in our own interest that it should maintain full diplomatic relations with us. But let me tell you that we ascribe at least as much significance to the substance of our relations with the Soviet Union. We profess this principle in respect to other countries, as well. There are some countries with which we have formal diplomatic relations, but our relations still leave a great deal to be desired, and vice-versa. At present, Israel maintains only a chief consulate in Moscow, and the Soviet Union does the same in Israel, but in practise these representations operate with the competence of embassies, and that is how they proceed. In this sense, our relations with the Soviet Union have grown to an enormous extent, and this applies also to the political dialogue in progress with the Soviet Union.

Of course, you might ask: If everything is as fine as all this, then why does the Soviet Union not restore full diplomatic relations with us? However, you should put this question to the Soviet Union. There is an opinion in our country that the obstacle to the full restoration of relations has to be sought in the Soviet conservative forces. But, I stress, this is just one opinion. it is not necessarily true.

I repeat, however, that the full restoration of relations is in the Soviet Union's interest at least as much as it is in ours. As you know, the reason why the United States was able to take part, to maneuver, in the Middle East peace process was precisely because it had contacts with both sides. If the Soviet Union had been in the same situation, then in my view it could likewise have taken pat in the settlement process. This is particularly valid now, when the rivalry in the Middle East has eased, and on the whole a good atmosphere has developed between the two superpowers.

One more significant factor: Israeli-Soviet relations have also been burdened by our struggle for the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate, that they might come to Israel. This struggle does not exist any more, because Soviet Jews are

now allowed to come out to Israel, just a they have also obtained the right to operate their own national and cultural organs in the Soviet Union.

[Kulcsar] In practise, can you imagine a Middle East regional conference in which the Soviet Union would participate while having no formal diplomatic relations with Israel?

[Govrin] Yes and no. I have to remark that the concept of a regional conference was originally ours. Since in the past three years our relations with the Soviet Union have improved to an enormous extent, I can image that the Soviet Union could take part in this process. I cannot predict whether it will be in an equal situation with the United States, but I suppose that if it has full diplomatic relations with us, its chances in this direction will be better.

[Kulcsar] You mentioned that by now Soviet Jews can travel to Israel without significant obstacles. Are you sure that this emigration will continue unimpeded?

[Govrin] In principle I am quite sure that this emigration will continue. If the Soviet authorities—and this is a very big if—do not put obstacles in the way of emigration. In other words, if the policy of free emigration continues in the Soviet Union, in respect of every Soviet citizen, then I have no doubt that the present wave will not be interrupted. But naturally this depends in no small measure also on whether we here in Israel will be capable of admitting, integrating, so many immigrants, and provide them with housing, and mainly with jobs. This is an enormous burden for us. I can hardly conceive of another country that would admit 200,000 persons in a single year. This causes us serious difficulties; we are aware of this, but we accept it.

Diplomatic Ties With Mongolia To Be Established

TA2404192091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Israel and Mongolia will soon establish diplomatic ties. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Immanu'el Halperin. Mongolia, with borders with the USSR and the PRC, has recently divested itself of Moscow's patronage, as the majority of the Soviet Army units deployed there withdraw from the country. The process will be completed within a year. [passage omitted]

Yugoslavia Wants To Resume Diplomatic Relations

TA2504192391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Yugoslavia wants to resume diplomatic relations with Israel and has asked it to send a high-level Foreign Ministry official to Belgrade to accelerate the talks on the issue. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus notes that the Yugoslav news agency has reported that a high-level Israeli envoy will shortly arrive in Belgrade to launch talks. Our correspondent was told by the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem that no official notification about Yugoslavia's intentions to resume diplomatic relations had yet been received. Nevertheless, officials pointed out, diplomatic contacts on the issue have been going on for a long time.

Commentary Examines Transformation in Jordan

TA2404152491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Apr 91 p B1

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Has the King Mended His Ways?"]

[Text] The fact that the king shaved his beard should not delude analysts of domestic events in the Hashemite Kingdom. A razor blade is not very likely to help the Jordanian king curb the transformation of his kingdom into a radical Islamic country. An analysis of what is happening in Jordan shows that Husayn may have missed the boat and should start getting used to the new rules of the game imposed by the sociopolitical changes that were only accelerated and made more acute by the Gulf war. As part of these changes, King Husayn is occasionally forced to turn a blind eye on the intensive activities of the Islamic organizations in Amman, even if this leads to terror attacks along the border with Israel. Although the king understands very well that infiltrations by armed men from Jordanian territory might trigger a painful Israeli military response, the maneuvering room he has evinced so far appears to be rather limited. Nevertheless, the king has clearly not given up on his efforts to prevent the takeover of his kingdom by religious elements. If Husayn decides to take practical steps against his domestic rivals, a key role would be reserved for Israel in assisting the Jordanian king.

Any Israeli decision in response to the infiltration attempts from the Jordanian border must take into account the fact that the rising political power of the Muslims in Jordan has significantly curtailed the king's political maneuvering room. Not every Israeli reaction would necessarily strengthen the monarchy, and could have an opposite effect. Husayn has more than once had to adapt his policy to radical religious moods, even if he did not believe in them.

The last four infiltration attempts were all attributed to the military arm of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Although it is hard to tell if the perpetrators set out on their way to the border under the influence of the leaflet Hamas issued in the territories, this would seem to be the acceleration of a worrisome phenomenon.

Since the beginning of the year, all the terror attacks from the Jordanian border, with the exception of one, had religious motives. Most of them had been planned by Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi and his men, who reside in Amman and enjoy the king's hospitality. Shaykh al-Tamimi, who was deported from Hebron in the early 1970's, is considered the leader of the Islamic Jihad

organization in Jordan. During the Gulf war, he called for a holy war against Israel and the United States.

It seems that relations between the religious leadership in the territories and Shaykh al-Tamimi's organization have recently moved from the ideological-religious plane to the terrorist-operational level. The leaders of Hamas in the territories consider al-Tamimi a powerful ally who allows them to stage operations against the Israeli occupation authorities not only from inside the territories but also from the Jordanian border. Islamic Jihad's religious, ideological, and political activities in Amman are, at this time, being conducted in the open and with the knowledge of the authorities. The Jordanian internal security apparatus is probably as aware as Israel of the link between al-Tamimi's organization and the terror attacks in the Jordan Rift Valley.

As far as Israel is concerned, this is a new type of enemy. The infiltrators are motivated by religious fanatical zeal, and they are unfazed by the possibility that they might get killed in the course of the terror attack. They set out on these attacks wearing miniature Korans around their necks, which are supposed to open the doors to heaven.

It is much harder to fight and reach a political solution with such an enemy, because its war with the Zionist entity is a war to the bitter end. We should be worried about the change in emphasis of the Palestinian activities in Jordan, from the political to the religious-fanatical level. Ironically enough, the activities of al-Tamimi and the like have created a common interest between Israel and the Jordanian king. Although Yitzhaq Shamir and his associates have not become advocates of Husayn and the Jordanian option, they understand very well that the alternative to the Hashemite king might take the form of Shaykh al-Tamimi. This is the reason that King Husayn is being treated with kid gloves, lest the already decrepit royal throne be further damaged.

The king appears to realize that coming to terms with the terrorist activities of the religious organizations in the Jordan Rift Valley would be a red line for Israel. Official Jordanian spokesmen declared two days ago that roadblocks had been erected on roads leading to the border with Israel and that the identity of laborers along the east bank of the Jordan River is being checked.

The war on the anti-Israeli religious terror originating in Jordan should be conducted very cautiously and out of concern for the future of the regime in Amman. Notions such as establishing a security zone on the eastern side of the Jordan River, as proposed by Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen, will not help solve the problem. Jordan is not Lebanon, and those who hope that its transformation into a fundamentalist Islamic state can still be arrested would be well advised to abstain from taking any steps which would strengthen the religious rivals of the Hashemite monarch.

Reportage on Soviet Immigrants' Status

1,600 Live in Territories

TA2404140091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Apr 91 p 12

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Text] Only 0.7 percent of the new immigrants who have come to Israel over the past 15 months, that is since January 1990 when the big wave of immigration began, currently reside in the territories, most of them in Judaea and Samaria.

Another 2.5 percent of them live in East Jerusalem, as against only approximately 1.5 percent who lived in East Jerusalem and the territories during the first months of aliyah.

A document transmitted to the Construction and Housing Ministry indicates that only about 1,600 new immigrants currently live in the territories, most of them in Ari'el, Qiryat Arba', and Ma'ale Adumim. An additional 6,000 of the 235,000 new immigrants who arrived during the past 15 months live in East Jerusalem.

It has been learned that certain Construction and Housing Ministry officials are now expecting the percentage of new immigrants living in the territories to go up to 1 percent of the total number of new immigrants as the number of new settlements in the territories increases and more mobile homes are brought to various settlements. The percentage of residents in East Jerusalem from among that population may also increase to approximately three percent, so that nearly 4 percent of all the new immigrants will live in the territories and East Jerusalem in the next few months.

Age, Educational Breakdown Given

TA2604091491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] During the first quarter of the year, 38,400 immigrants arrived here, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. Between 50,000 and 100,000 immigrants had been predicted.

Nearly 90 percent of the immigrants—34,300—came from the Soviet Union, 700 from other European countries, 2,550 from Africa (mainly Ethiopia), and 600 from North America and Oceania.

Some 23 percent of the immigrants are under 14 years of age, 65 percent between 15 and 64, and 12 percent are over 65. Their median age is 34.

Of the 30,000 immigrants over 15, 52 percent have 13 or more years of schooling.

From the beginning of last year until the end of last month, some 237,900 immigrants arrived in Israel, including 219,500 from the Soviet Union and 6,600 from Ethiopia.

New Political Group Organized

TA2604114491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Apr 91 p A1

[Report by Lili Galili]

[Text] The first move by Soviet immigrants to organize a political party for the next elections is currently under way. The movement, called Tza'ad (Zionism, Aliyah, Democracy), is headed by Yosef Khurol [name as published], a 62-year-old Soviet immigrant who came to Israel 21 years ago.

Khurol was among the first prisoners of Zion and spent six years in Stalin's gulags. When he came to Israel he joined Herut but later left over his opposition to the Camp David accords. He has been a resident of the settlement of Elqana for the past 15 years and is retired from the Israel Aircraft Industries, where he was an economist.

The movement's political platform is rightist and is founded on the desire for peace without territorial compromise.

The movement favors a liberal approach to personal and family issues, advocating civil marriages and the option for burial outside the religious frameworks. Movement activists have confirmed that the platform is a combination of Tehiya and the Citizens Rights Movement ideas and reflects the immigrants' thinking in the political and civil areas.

In the sphere of aliyah, the movement demands that an absorption plan for the year 2000 be consolidated and favors the abolition of the duality between the Jewish Agency and the Immigrant Absorption Ministry. It recommends the establishment of one ministry with sweeping powers in the area of aliyah and absorption in which immigrants will hold key positions.

The platform calls for legislation that will permit the government to declare a state of emergency for absorption. Tza'ad is currently getting organized. Its members hold regular meetings with groups of immigrants and participate in cultural gatherings where they present their platform and impress on the audience the need to establish a political party.

The activists also call meetings in their homes where immigrant absorption problems and the failure of the bodies currently working for the USSR Jews are presented. The movement's activists believe that the Soviet immigrants feel the need for a political body to enter the establishment and act from within on behalf of the immigrants.

The activists also want to operate among potential immigrants in the Soviet Union.

Survey Gauges Employment Status

TA2804093091 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Apr 91 p A7

[ITIM report]

[Text] In 51 percent of the families of new immigrants who have arrived in Israel since September 1989 at least one member holds a full- or part-time job. This emerges from data included in a survey conducted in early April 1991 on the employment status of USSR immigrants.

The results of the survey, which was conducted by the Tatzpit Institute under the directorship of Dr. Aharon Fein, indicate that the employment status of these people is far better than absorption elements or the new immigrants themselves had thought.

There are indications of a steep drop in employment during the first few months of 1991: Among 70 percent of the families who immigrated in early 1991 no family member holds either a full- or part-time job. In 16.4 percent of the families, only one member holds a full-time job, while in 13 percent of the families only one family member holds a part-time job.

It should be noted that among 65.8 percent of the families that arrived in Israel in late 1989, at least one member holds a full-time job. Among 8 percent of the families at least one person holds a part-time job. In 26.3 percent of the families who arrived during that period no member of the family holds either a full- or part-time job.

The pollsters interviewed 615 new immigrants who arrived in Israel between September 1989 and March 1991.

Agriculture Minister Leaves for West Europe

TA2804085491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan left this morning for a two-week tour of West Europe. He will visit Agrexco [Israeli agricultural produce-exporting company] and Citrus Board stations, meet with buyers, and examine the possibility of expanding the export of Israeli agricultural produce. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports that in Brussels Minister Eytan will hold talks with the EC representative and discuss matters pertaining to Israel in anticipation of the unification of Europe next year. The agriculture minister will then visit the United States for a lecture tour and to promote his upcoming book, To Be A Soldier.

Defense Ministry To Reopen Hebron University

TA3004105791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Apr 91 p 12

[Report by Jon Immanuel and ITIM]

[Excerpts] The Defense Ministry announced last night that it has decided to reopen a West Bank university it closed 40 months ago, shortly after the outbreak of the intifada.

Hebron Univeristy will be the third of six Palestinian universities reopened so far. The announcement did not say when it would open, but the statement implied that the order takes immediate effect.

Bethelehem University was reopened in October. Two campuses of Al-Quds Univeristy were opened last June. Three of the largest colleges, Bi'r Zayt, al-Najah and Gaza Islamic College, are to remain closed "for the time being."

Brig.-Gen. Danni Rothschild, government coordinator in the territories, said their reopening "in the near future depends on the successful process in focusing on academic study, not violence and disturbances, by universities in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza."

Palestinian delegates meeting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visits here called reopening universities one of many necessary confidence-building measures.

A Tulkarm resident, Khalil Kharuf, 25, kidnapped three days ago, was found dead nearby yesterday, the 23rd possible political killing this month. There were no details on his death which was assumed to have been perpetrated by a vigilante gang. [passage omitted]

Military sources said yesterday several signs declaring a fenced off area near Tulkarm a minefield were "a technical error." The signs were removed yesterday following a report in the daily HADASHOT.

An announcement by the military spokesman said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] "does not place mines in Judaea and Samaria." It said the area of three dunams was fenced off because firebombs and stones had been thrown from it.

ITIM adds: The Islamic Students Movement in the territories, linked with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], yesterday called for a popular assembly to debate cheating in graduation examinations. The group appeal was the first appeal of its kind by religious students.

In the course of the past week, 10 Palestinians were murdered and three were injured as a result of attacks carried out by Palestinians, the Government Press Office announced yesterday.

Since the start of the intifada, 397 Palestinians have been murdered and 1,311 injured in attacks perpetrated by Palestinians.

The figure does not include five Palestinians who were killed in attacks directed at Jews and an additional 37 detainees who were murdered in detention facilities by other Palestinians (24 of them in the Qetzi'ot detention facility).

*Investments With Israel Reportedly Opening Up

91AE0338E Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew (Financial Supplement) 15 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

[Article by S. Plotsker: "The Japanese are Coming"]

[Text] The Japanese are about to break the ban on investments in the Israeli economy. Although there could always be a last-minute withdrawal, the Japanese willingness to conduct open dealings with Israeli companies—and the bank on its side is large, even very large—will be soon revealed.

They are talking, albeit in whispers, about three projects. Each one—knock on wood—is heavy-weight.

A. One of the three largest banks in Japan (which is one of the three largest banks in the world, all of which are Japanese; according to certain estimates, this is even the largest bank in the world) and one of the three largest banks in Israel agreed to the establishment of a joint corporation for the financing of trade and investments. After extended negotiations, which were troublesome and even explosive, a very short contract was signed in the honored style of Japanese business. The joint corporation will not operate secretly. Just the opposite: it will be publicly advertised, openly and proudly.

Thus, it will be announced to the entire world that the subsidiary of a giant Japanese bank entered a partnership with a subsidiary of an Israeli bank. This will be the first open investment of the Japanese banking industry in dealings in Israel.

The joint corporation will deal with financing international trade, primarily in the Far East, including the Soviet Far East. Lumber from Siberian steppes for the neighborhoods in Ashqelon, through Japanese financing.

B. The special fund for investments in the Middle East, which the Japanese Government established during the course of the Gulf war, together with Israeli, Turkish, and British components, to finance the importation of water from Turkey to Israel. We are speaking of a breathtaking plan, which, in the future, is likely, to solve the water shortage in Israel.

Good, flowing water is abundant in Turkey. Good, flowing money is abundant in Japan. The Israeli-Jewish initiative binds the two.

The Japanese, as is known, drew more than a little criticism in the United States for their hesitation in supporting Operation Desert Storm with their full economic strength. Finally, the parliament in Tokyo authorized an additional, special appropriation of $9 billion to cover the costs and damages of the war in the Gulf. The distribution of the funds has still not been finalized, but it is clear that generous portions of it will be made

available to finance a development plan in the Middle East. The Industrial Development Corporation of the Japanese industrial association is interested in promoting, within the framework of this appropriation, the "water for peace" project—finding a solution for the water shortage in our region.

The plan has two phases. In the first phase, Israel would import water from Turkey by means of giant tankers. This will be relatively expensive water, with no technical and practical difficulty to transport.

In the second, truly interesting, phase, the sea transport of the water will be accomplished using giant balloons made from a special plastic, called "medosas." Each such "medosa" will be capable of transporting a million cubes of water. It will be tugged by sea from the coasts of Turkey to the coasts of Israel. In time, a permanent tugging line will be established, a sort of floating canal of fresh water between Turkey and Israel. Even the residents of the territories, the Gaza Strip and the Kingdom of Jordan could benefit from this water.

The person who was especially enthusiastic about this project is Baron Edmond de Rothschild of London. The Baron viewed himself as an international coordinator for the entire "water for peace" project and is granting his name and prestige for the practical realization of this plan. He is very active with the Turkish authorities. In Israel, the man who oversees everything is Doron Levi, a businessman with a hand in everything—importing food, communications licensing, representation of Japanese banks and companies, and closeness to the Baron Edmond de Rothschild. He is also a partner in a serious British investment company.

The amount needed for investment, including, among other things, the final development of the "medosas," hovers around 1 billion dollars. This does not startle the Japanese—just the opposite. The Japanese are convinced that water will be all too rare a resource in the world of the twenty-first century, and, therefore, they are willing to invest a great deal of money today in order to examine means of transporting and storing water, and [conducting] international trade dealing with water.

Yes, international trade—one fine day, write the Japanese, a water exchange will be established in Osaka, Japan, just as there is an oil exchange, and there it will be possible to buy and sell millions of cubes of water of different quality, for supply any place in the world, at any desired time, for the appropriate price, of course. As will be determined on the free water market.

With their eyes on the future, the Japanese want to jump into the water.

So do the Turks. The water export project is likely to put hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign currency into the Turkish treasury, while, at this time, this water is simply being wasted. The Turkish prime minister is personally interested in the deal, since behind him there is also a large, well-known Turkish company. One of decisive meetings on the subject, with more distinguished participation, is said to be taking place in Istanbul already in the coming days.

And what is Israel's part? First of all, the Government of Israel is prepared to issue a letter to the project initiators, stating that they are prepared to purchase a very large quantity of water at a reasonable price. Second, the same Israeli bank mentioned as a partner with a Japanese bank for the finance corporation was chosen with the project initiators. And the giant Japanese bank will also, apparently, be in on it.

Sound fantastic? A most reliable Israeli source who is involved in the project told me yesterday: even if you reduce its scope by one-third, this is still an operation that kindles the imagination, and it is not impossible.

C. And if these were not enough, the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation is likely to announce, within a few days, the financing of research that will examine the worthiness of the water canal, the same canal between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea whose digging was stopped a few years ago, almost immediately after it commenced, because of the decline in oil prices and a lack of resources. The Japanese who looked at the area think that there is something to such a canal after all.

Welcome to the Holy Land.

Further on Militia Arms Handover, Army Deployment

Al-Hirawi: Complete Disbandment

NC2404142491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi visited the Supreme Shiite Islamic Council today. During his visit, al-Hirawi stressed to Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din that Lebanon is a final homeland for all Lebanese. He said the decision to disband the militias covers all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. He said that the decision to disband the militias does not mean we are not striving to find a solution to the militias' personnel. He added: From now on, we will not allow any weapons, other than the Lebanese army weapons. He said that the Government of Lebanon is Lebanese, Lebanon's independence is Lebanese, and its sovereignty is Lebanese.

LF Chief of Staff on Handover

NC2504111491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik, chief of the General Staff of the Lebanese Forces, has emphasized that the dissolution of the militias is proceeding positively. He described the Lebanese Forces' policy as positive. He stressed that the Lebanese Forces are prepared to discuss all means to an agreement and to working out the executive mechanism so that matters take correct their course.

Staff Major General Malik said that the agreement on the dissolution of the militias is indivisible, indicating that the state's partition will be a big mistake.

The chief of the Lebanese Forces General Staff said that the 30 April deadline might have to be extended because matters exist that need to be studied in depth in order to find a solution for Lebanon, not for individuals.

Syrian Social Militia Transfers Arms

NC3004175691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] In northern Lebanon, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-Higher Council [SSNP-HC] handed over its weapons to the Lebanese Army in the party's barracks in (Dibdah) today.

The Lebanese Army was represented by Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Dallul, chairman of the subcommittee in charge of taking over weapons; Colonel Rashid Afyuni, chief of the northern military intelligence bureau; officer members of the subcommittee; and officers from the general committee in charge of taking over weapons. The SSNP-HC was represented by 'Id Matar, official in charge of defense; al-Amin Ibrahim Sulayman, chairman of the handover committee in the North; and committee members.

The following weapons were handed over: four 122-mm improved Korean [as heard] guns; two 57-mm guns; one 23-mm dual barrel gun; cases of ammunition for the guns; RPG-10's; Katushas; and 236 cases of 122-mm shells.

AFP Rounds Up Transfers

NC3004192791 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Beirut, April 30 (AFP)—The pro-Syrian Lebanese Government Tuesday prepared to consolidate its grip on the country, sweeping aside 16 years of civil strife as the last armed militias disbanded and the Army deployed across the war-scarred country.

For one observer it was a "farewell to arms" in a country where some 150,000 people died and which was almost exclusively ruled by 10 armed militias for 16 years. "Today we have closed the file on war to start on the reconstruction of the country," Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said, adding that the Army would begin Wednesday to deploy in areas evacuated by militiamen, south and north of Beirut.

The government had ordered the militias to disband by midnight April 30 and turn in their weapons to the Army or to Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon as part of its efforts to extend its influence over the country. Most armed groups had complied with the orders ahead of the deadline although two key militias were still handing over their weapons or beginning to give up their arsenals.

The main obstacle had come from the 10,000-man Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, which was demanding that Palestinians in southern Lebanon gave up their arms simultaneously. But at the last minute the LF relented and said it would meet the government's request. By Tuesday LF forces was dismantling a checkpoint linking their fiefdom in Kasrawan, north of Beirut, to Syrian-controlled areas of northern Lebanon.

LF and Army sources said negotiations were also under way between them to iron out last minute "technical" details. There were apparently no hitches in sight.

The Druze militia, another powerful group, was also Tuesday turning in weapons to Syrian troops. The operation—which began Saturday and included handing over weapons to the Lebanese army—could last 10-15 days because of the formidable arsenal they possessed, sources said. To date the 5,000-strong Druze had turned over more than 20 tanks, 30 cannons and 1,200 tonnes of ammunition.

Observers here were convinced that combined Syrian and U.S. pressure had enabled the Lebanese Government to move quickly into realising its ambition of ridding the country of militias and placing the territory under central command in line with a 1989 Arab peace plan.

On Wednesday, soldiers were due to take up positions in Kasrawan and Jubayl districts north of Beirut, where the

LF ruled, and to move into the predominantly Druze al-Shuf mountains southeast of Beirut. They will also move into areas formerly held by groups as disparate as the Iranian-backed Hizballah, the pro-Syrian Amal, Palestinian groups and other smaller armed militias.

On Tuesday the Army shut down two ports in southern Lebanon which were illegally held by Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party. During the civil strife at least a dozen ports had illicitly sprouted along the Lebanese coast, sapping the economy of the central government.

The government will also seek to rehabilitate the militias by finding them jobs in administrative or military positions.

A spokesman for the Damascus-based Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) denied that it had refused to evacuate positions in southern Lebanon. He stressed that the PFLP-GC had turned in its weapons and said it would support Lebanese Government efforts to restore peace in the country so long as it guaranteed the Palestinians' "political and civilian rights" in Lebanon.

A spokesman for the Lebanese Forces later said the militia would soon be handing back to the Army 38 tanks, 204 military vehicles, 103 cannons, 56 machine guns, 49 rocket launchers and 105 walkie-talkies. Most of the weaponry had been seized during clashes in 1989 with troops loyal to rebel leader General Michel 'Awn, the spokesman said.

LF To Transfer Helicopters, Tanks

NC0105052691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Lebanese Forces have declared that they will return 16 helicopters and a large quantity of heavy- and medium-caliber weapons to the Lebanese Army.

AFP quoted a Lebanese Forces official last night as saying that these weapons have been gathered at Halat airport, but he did not specify when they will be handed over. The same official added that the weapons will include 38 tanks, including 26 U.S.-made M-48's; 104 military vehicles, including personnel carriers, trucks, and jeeps; 103 guns; 56 machine guns; 49 rocket launchers; and several communications devices.

Al-Murr Confirms 1 May Deployment

NC3004172191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has declared that the cabinet decision to deploy the Lebanese Army throughout Lebanon will begin tomorrow, Wednesday, in the areas of Kasrawan, Jubayl, al-Batrun, al-Kurah, upper al-Matn, al-Shuf and 'Alayh. He said that the issue of the militias that have handed over their weapons will be solved in an honorable way. At a news conference today, al-Murr made the following statement:

[Begin al-Murr recording] It pleases me to announce to the Lebanese public that the cabinet decision on extending the state authority throughout Lebanon allows the Army to deploy after 30 April 1991 in the entire Jabal Lubnan Governorate and in the al-Kurah and al-Batrun Districts in the northern governorate. The Army will begin implementing this decision as of tomorrow morning, Wednesday, 1 May. In addition to its previous deployment in Greater Beirut, the Lebanese Army will deploy in Kasrawan, Jubayl, al-Batrun, al-Kurah, upper al-Matn, al-Shuf, and 'Alayh.

As you have heard in the media for the last week, weapons have been handed over or transferred outside the Army deployment areas by the Lebanese and non-Lebanese organizations. I must note here the positive attitude toward the cabinet decision demonstrated by the officials of the parties and armed organizations that used to be called militias. As for the disbanded militias which handed over their weapons, the cabinet will follow their progress and find an honorable solution to assimilation as quickly as possible.

I tell the Lebanese people that the peace process will continue with a rapid pace. We are hereby closing the file of the Lebanese war and beginning a file on the rebuilding of Lebanon. Thank you. [applause]

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, regarding the (?position) of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], [words indistinct] its weapons in Beirut and certain areas in the mountain [words indistinct] its bases?

[Al-Murr] We were informed (?this morning) by the PFLP that it will transfer its weapons from all areas where the Army will deploy this afternoon. In other words, the PFLP will not have any weapons in Beirut or the mountain beginning midnight tonight. This is what the PFLP told us at 0800 today. [end recording]

Army Begins Deployment

NC0105051791 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpts] Lebanese Army units began deploying at 0630 today. The first phase of the deployment covers the coastal road between Nahr al-Kalb, al-Batrun, and al-Kurah. Later the Army will gradually deploy in the direction of mountain areas. [passage omitted]

The 7th Brigade will commence deployment on the coastal highway in the al-Batrun and al-Kurah areas this morning. The Lebanese Forces are expected to vacate their position on the northern end of Jisr al-Madfun. Army units will also deploy all along the coastal line between al-Batrun and the southern entrance to Tripoli. Meanwhile, the 2d Brigade, which is deployed in Tripoli, has started taking the necessary security and logistics steps.

In another development, party leaders in the North have begun to hand over their weapons in accordance with the

cabinet's decisions. The Syrian Social Nationalist Party-Higher Council handed over its weapons to the Lebanese Army in al-Kurah yesterday.

Proceeds Without 'Obstacles'

NC0105083091 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Lebanese Army units have been deploying in Jabal Lubnan Governorate and al-Kurah and al-Batrun Districts since this morning in accordance with the plan specified by the cabinet decision. The deployment is proceeding without any obstacles.

The 2d and 7th Brigades completed deployment in al-Kurah and Kasrawan Districts and in the northern coast of Kasrawan. Units from the 12th Brigade took up positions at the intersections of 'Alman and Kafr Matta.

Defense Statement on Deployment

NC0105122491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 May 91

[Statement issued by the Defense Ministry Information Department on 1 May]

[Text] The Lebanese Army brigades have carried out the deployment process, as specified by the Army Command, without encountering obstacles or problems from any party. The 7th Brigade deployed in the al-Batrun and al-Kurah Districts. The 2d Brigade deployed in the Jubayl area. The 8th Brigade deployed in the Kasrawan region.

The 5th Brigade began to deploy in the upper al-Matn area and will complete the deployment in the direction of Tarshish and the two al-Matn areas at approximately 1600 this afternoon. The 10th Brigade began deploying from the Wadi Shahrur area and the neighboring villages, moving toward Bhamdun, al-Kahhalah, and 'Alayh. It will complete its mission before 1600 this afternoon.

The 11th Brigade began its deployment from the upper al-Matn region, particularly from the areas of Qurnayil, Falugha, Hammana, heading for Nab' al-Safa, al-Baruk, and deep into the al-Shuf region. It will complete its deployment before this evening.

Army Expands Deployment in South

NC0105130991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] In Southern Lebanon, the Lebanese Army units stationed in Kafr Rumman have expanded their deployment by advancing to the town's peripheries, thus establishing direct contact with the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army. First Brigade Commander Colonel Ghassan Milhim has instructed the officers and soldiers to secure protection of the area, set up roadblocks, and maintain permanent surveillance to safeguard the security of the inhabitants.

National Resistance Claims Operation in South

NC0105094391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The National Resistance issued a statement today. It said that in confirmation of the continued resistance until Zionist occupation is evicted, a group from Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces and another group from Martyr Ghassan Kanafani forces carried out a dual operation against two of agent Lahd's patrols along the Kafr Falus-Anan road at noon yesterday. Explosive devices were detonated, killing or wounding personnel of the two patrols. The two groups returned safely to base.

Memo Bans Use of Al-Jiyah, Al-Awza'i Ports

NC0105070191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] In accordance with the cabinet's decision on the closure of illegal ports, the Naval Operations Room in Beirut has sent a memorandum to the appropriate authorities instructing them to stop using the al-Jiyah and al-Awza'i ports as of 1800 yesterday. According to the memorandum, violators will be subject to punishment under the law.

UK Foreign Minister Contacts Buwayz on Hostages

NC3004204391 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has received a message from his British counterpart, Douglas Hurd. Hurd congratulated Buwayz on the progress Lebanon has achieved toward permanent peace and security. Hurd expressed his hope that efforts will continue to release all hostages to put an end to the unjust seizure of innocent people. He hinted at the possibilisty of the British minister of state visiting Beirut soon. The British ambassador in Beirut visited Minister Buwayz and gave him the message.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives 30 Apr

JN3004135291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani arrived in Damascus today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the head of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department received him upon arrival.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, al-Iryani said he was happy to visit Damascus, adding: I bear a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

He praised Syrian-Yemeni relations in various domains.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN3004171691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 30 Apr (INA)—At 1845 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Yemeni Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abduh Shutfah attended the meeting.

Al-Iryani conveyed a letter from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Gulf War Aftermath, Hostage Situation Viewed

PM0105090591 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 27 Apr 91 p 8

[Interview with Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, by 'Abdallah al-Tayyari in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Tayyari] How do you see the Arab future at the security and political level after the recent crisis in the Gulf region which ended with the liberation of Kuwait?

[Qaddur] The Gulf events have accentuated two very important things: First, this is the first time in the Arabs' history that an Arab state has committed an aggression against another Arab state, invaded its territory, and sought to eliminate that state from existence. The Arabs' contemporary history has known nothing similar to that. True, there are differences that reach the point of estrangement, but they have never reached that ferocity and violence to the extent of total occupation, seeking to eliminate the existence of another state or resolving to annex it.

For example, we have differed with Jordan and Iraq in the past, Algeria has differed with Morocco, and so on. But what happened this time is something completely different and new to the history of Arab relations.

The second thing is that there was a defect in the pan-Arab security that prevailed before the invasion. If that defect had not been there, the invasion and the aggression would not have occurred. Even if it had occurred in a healthy Arab body and within sound pan-Arab security, pan-Arab security would have been able to confront it and put an end to it immediately and matters would not have developed in such a tragic way. These lessons and realities constitute the foundation from which we should proceed in order to repair the defect that allowed those events to occur and to establish a system based on a true Arab solidarity that places the Arab nations' interests above all considerations. Furthermore, Arab security is linked to the security of the region as a whole. This is because security is integral and indivisible. For example, the security of the region as a whole is linked to Europe's security, because the entire world is linked strategically, economically, and geographically and no part of it can separate and provide its own security in isolation from the rest of the world.

[Al-Tayyari] How do you view joint Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian coordination in the light of these ideas and after the crisis?

[Qaddur] Contacts between the three fraternal states are continuing and have always revolved around the possibility of correcting the Arab situation by any means and eliminating anything that would allow a repetition of that tragedy in the future. These contacts were crowned with the Damascus declaration, whose stipulations are aimed against no one and which is not a bloc at all but, rather, a kind of rallying of ranks in order to safeguard and protect the Arab nation's interests. The door has been left open to any state that wishes to join it without any restrictions or conditions. The declaration also emphasized that it was issued within the framework of the Arab League charter. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tayyari] How do you see the future of conditions in Iraq in view of current developments?

[Qaddur] I believe that the situation is still very serious. I also believe that it is difficult for Saddam Husayn to remain in power after all the tragedies and disasters he has caused for the Iraqi people. We Arabs are all agreed on the territorial integrity of Iraq. But the Iraqi people may not let him remain in power. As for when and how that can happen, nobody knows. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tayyari] There remains the problem of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, which is an old problem, and Syria has helped in releasing some of them. What stage has been reached in that problem?

[Qaddur] As is known, the hostage problem is a humanitarian problem. We have opposed and continue to oppose any kidnapping of hostages. This is humanitarian work and we always put effort into it, regardless of the nationalities of the hostages or our relations with their states.

We have made and continue to make whatever efforts we can to secure their release. And, of course, we have succeeded in some cases and failed in others. I believe that peace in Lebanon, the disbandment of the militias, the withdrawal of arms, and the atmosphere of accord will help a lot in resolving the hostage problems. The relaxation being achieved will reflect on their outcome. While all this concerns the Western hostages, there is another problem concerning other hostages, namely the

hostages detained by Israel whom it kidnapped from among the Lebanese in particular. They number not 15 or 16 like the Western hostages, but a total of over 400-500 people. Despite affirming that two issues should not be linked and that conditions for releasing hostages should not be linked to the release of other hostages, I believe that attention should also be paid to the others' fate and efforts made to secure their release.

Lebanese Steps To Spread Authority Viewed

JN0105073591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Success for the Legitimacy," AL-THAWRAH says: The legitimate Lebanese Government is proceeding resolutely in rapid, confident steps to conclude the implementaion of al-Ta'if agreement for national reconciliation and spread the government's authority throughout Lebanon.

The paper says: This morning, the legitimate government is dispatching its internal forces and army units to the closed areas and cantons, which over the years of the sanguinary crisis remained defiant to the rule of law and under the control of a group of Lebanese people to the exclusion of the rest.

The paper adds: No doubt, spreading the army throughout al-Matn, Kasrawan, Batrun, and Jubayl, which coincides with the end of the time limit for dissolving the militias and handing in of weapons—with the widespread support and tranquillity of all classes and sectors of the Lebanese people—is a fresh success for the legitimate government and another advanced accomplishment on the road to complete salvation, spreading of security and peace, and entrenching the authority of the government and law in Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The accomplishments, triumphs, and steps of the legitimate government in its march to attain salvation, recovery, and national reconciliation are considerable achievements. Through its endeavors, efforts, and persistence in spreading its authority, implementing UN Resolution 425, and forcing Israel to withdraw from the South, it seeks Syrian support. Moreover, it realizes in deeds, not words, that it is not alone in its battles for liberation, salvation, reconciliation, and reconstruction.

Message Received From Bulgarian Minister

JN3004195491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] This evening, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister (Doncho Donchev) this evening. Present were Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and Dr. Ghassan Marislan, head of the East Europe Desk at the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was also attended by Mr. (Zadka Kopeliev), head of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, and Mr. Atanas Kolev Samsarev, Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Donchev handed Foreign Minister al-Shar' a written message from his counterpart, the Bulgarian foreign minister, on the good relations between Syria and Bulgaria and the concern to bolster these relations.

They also talked about events in the region and a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

Assistant Foreign Minister Shakkur held two rounds of talks this morning and yesterday with the Bulgarian deputy foreign minister concentrating on the development of relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Bulgaria.

Al-Asad Receives PRC Delegation 30 Apr

JN3004185191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 30 Apr (SANA)—At 1730 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Gu Mu, deputy chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and his delegation.

Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy head of the National Progressive Front, attended the meeting.

Gu Mu conveyed to the president the greetings of the Chinese leadership, and the president asked him to convey similar greetings to the Chinese leadership and the friendly Chinese people.

The talks dealt with the region's situation and bilateral relations.

Economic Talks Held With Iranian Team

JN2604164891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] A second round of economic, commercial, scientific, and technical talks was held between Syria and Iran at the Ministry of Economy today. Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and FOreign trade, led the Syrian side, and Dr. 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, commerce minister, led the Iranian. Also present were Mohammad Hoseyn Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus; the visiting Iranian delegation; and officials from concerned ministries and corporations.

Against the background of earlier discussions by joint subcommittees, the meeting discussed all aspects of the economic relations between the two countries and joint cooperation in various areas, the progress made toward putting cooperation in a new framework, and efforts to deepen it in the interest of the two people and nations. The two sides are to resume discussions at the technical level tomorrow with a view to finalizing the minutes of the talks and projected agreements.

Afghanistan

Uzbek Agriculture Minister, Delegation Visit

Meet Minister Ghofran

LD2804053691 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0449 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Kabul, April 27, BAKHTAR—Eng Muhammad Ghofran, minister of agriculture and land reforms of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] today had a meeting in his office with a delegation of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic headed by G. Rahim Abdullayovich, minister of irrigation and water resources of that republic, arrived recently in Kabul, reports a BAKHTAR reporter.

During the meeting in which deputy-ministers and leading body of the ministry were present, the sides debated on issues related to the expansion of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic assistance to RA in agricultural field.

The guest delegation promissed that his country will help with Afghanistan in revival of a part of the Nangarhar Valley development project particularly it's irrigation system and some other parts.

The said delegation has visited Jalalabad city, centre of Nangarhar Province, Daronta hydro-electric dam and the Oliv factory of the province and expressed cooperation with these projects.

Joint Cooperation Protocols Signed

LD2904044291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] A protocol of cooperation between the Ministry of Water and Electricity of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] was signed today in the Ministry of Water and Electricity by Mir 'Abdul Ghafur Rahim, minister of water and electricity of the Republic of Afghanistan, and (Giniyatullin Rim Abdulovich), minister of land recalamation and water resources of the Uzbek SSR, while deputy ministers and leadership of the Ministry of Water and Electricity and (Kaprovich Romanov), trade consular of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, were present. The documents were then exchanged. In keeping with the protocol, the Soviet side will render all-out cooperation with irrigation projects of the Republic of Afghanistan which are built with assistance of the USSR and also in the field of developing water resources in the Republic of Afghanistan. Similarly, a protocol of technical and economic cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of the Uzbek SSR was signed this afternoon by Eng. Muhammad Ghofran, minster of agriculture and land reform, and (Ginyatullin Rim Abdulovich), minister of land reclamation and water resources of the Uzbek SSR, while the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform were present.

Minister Meets Khaliqyar

LD2904054391 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Kabul, April 28, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) while B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul was present, met with G.R. Abdulovich, minister of irrigation and water resources of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic here today.

The Prime Ministry press office reported to BAKHTAR that during the meeting matters of mutual interest in the areas of irrigation, electricity and results of the working visit of the Uzbek SSR delegation to Kabul were discussed.

According to another report Engineer 'Abdul Samad Salim, deputy prime minister and G. Muhayuddin Shahbaz, minister of planning of the RA met with the guest delegation separately and discussed areas of expansion of economic assistance, irrigation, agriculture, erection of joint projects etc, of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Reportedly Demonstrate in Delhi

BK2704090691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 27 (AFP)—Some 400 Afghan mujahidin refugees shouting "Kabul after Khowst" demonstrated here Saturday against the government of President Najibullah and said their war to oust him from power would continue.

The refugees, who included many women and children, marched from a World War I monument to the Boat Club Lawns near parliament to mark the 13th anniversary of what they called the "Russian coup" in Afghanistan, witnesses said.

Afghan troops joined leftists to overthrow the government of then-prime minister Mohammad Daud on April 27, 1978, in what is known as the Saur Revolution.

The demonstrators shouted slogans against both Washington and Moscow, which they said were trying to force the mujahidin to share power with Mr. Najibullah. The protestors added that they should be allowed to "decide our own destiny."

Ali Khan, representing the Afghan mujahidin in India, distributed leaflets vaunting the military victory over government troops in the eastern Afghan garrison town of Khowst, which fell to the mujahidin on March 31.

Mr. Khan also urged New Delhi, which maintains good relations with the Najibullah government, to change its Afghan policy.

India

Inclusion on U.S. Trade Sanctions List Decried

BK3004133491 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Commentary by Tyagraj Sharma, special correspondent of the ECONOMIC TIMES of New Delhi: "India's Inclusion in the Special 301 List"]

[Text] The U.S. decision to bring India under the Special 301 hit list on trade is, to say the least, unfortunate. The U.S. move, however, does not come as a surprise. This is because indications were available in March itself, especially when the Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, was all but warned of the impending action in Washington by none other than the U.S. trade representative, Ms. Carla Hills. Officials here, however, were hoping that despite the warning, the United States would ultimately refrain from taking action against India. This optimism was based on the fact that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations is still on and the U.S. would wait till the conclusion of the round. More important is the fact that the U.S. had earlier decided to drop investigations against India on Super 301 on the ground that it would review its position after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Accordingly, it was not wrong to presume that the same logic would be extended to the Intellectual Property Rights, IPR, issue under Special 301.

The U.S. move in placing India under the hit list has, however, proved otherwise. In essence, what it means is that the U.S. is putting pressure on India to amend its patent law for the simple reason that it affects American interests, for the U.S. maintains that many U.S.-invented drugs are widely reproduced since patent protection is not available. Even where it is available, product patents expire 14 years from the date of filing of the patent. Worse, the U.S. argues, stringent compulsory licensing provisions have the potential to render patent protection virtually meaningless. In short, it means that the U.S. wants India to virtually scrap or water down its time-tested Patent Act of 1970. The supporters of the act, on the other hand, take pains to emphasize that it is a historical landmark in so far as the act serves as a model for many countries in the developing world. Not only that the Indian Patent Act provided the basis for rapid growth of its pharmaceutical and chemical industry, but also anchored the entire system on national interests. Significantly, these drugs and medicines are far cheaper in India than in the other parts of the world.

The U.S. authorities, however, have been arguing that Indian officials have not made any significant positive responses to repeated proposals for changes in Indian patent, trademark, and copyright laws. Further, India is not even a member of the Paris convention, nor does it have a bilateral patent agreement with the United States. Accordingly, the U.S. has gone ahead and brought India under the ambit of the Special 301. This invites trade sanctions, including imposition of heavy tariffs and even curtailment of imports. However, for these actions, it is imperative for the U.S. to investigate for about six months before recommending that sanctions should be imposed on India. The six month's time can be extended by three months.

For all these, the two countries had to commence negotiations. All the same, the union commerce minister had expressed disappointment against the latest U.S. decision for he was among the first to say that the U.S. may ultimately drop India from the watch list under Special 301. Obviously, his optimism has been belied.

Meanwhile, the U.S. move does give rise to some concern at least [on] its timing. One view is that by placing India on the Special 301 list, the U.S. is trying to pressurize India into signing on the dotted line during the Uruguay Round of talks. Others feel that the U.S. is merely telling India that unless it toes its line, especially in terms of liberalizing the trade, foreign investment and the policy relating to services, the much-sought-after second helping of the International Monetary Fund loan may not be forthcoming.

This is not something to be brushed aside. It must be remembered that after its tremendous success in the Gulf war there is no stopping the U.S. It is just not in a mood to listen to anyone. It is immaterial that China and, more important, its close ally—Thailand—have also been brought under the ambit of Special 301. In the case of Thailand, at least the Americans have a totally different relationship. China, of course, is a different cup of tea. But for India the move is definitely something to worry about, especially as it comes just before India prepares to hold general elections.

BJP Manifesto Promises 'Nuclear Teeth'

BK3004161291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has promised a strong center along with strong and autonomous states, setting up a commission to study the presidential system of government and issuing a white paper on the state of the economy. While committing itself to build a temple at Ayodhya by relocating the Babri Masjid [mosque], the party claims that it [the party] will uplift the poor without generating class or caste conflicts.

A 38-page manifesto of the party was released in New Delhi by its president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

It promises that the defense forces will be provided with nuclear teeth.

While committing itself to job reservation broadly on the basis of the Mandal Commission report, the party pleads for reservation based on economic criteria also.

On Punjab and Kashmir, the party reiterates its position for the creation of a security belt along the India-Pakistan border and deletion of Article 370 of the Constitution [giving special status to Kashmir].

It promises to deport all infiltrators from Bangladesh and will have [an] electrified barbed wire fence along the India-Bangladesh border.

The manifesto pledges to create two [new] states—Uttaranchal and Varanchal—besides conferring statehood on Delhi. The party says the regional development councils will be set up for Ladakh, Jammu, Marathwada and Vidharba.

A human rights commission will replace the minorities commission. A national register of citizens, public spending on elections, and examination of the possibility of introducing the list system in the polls are some other points included in the manifesto.

On the economic front, the BJP pledges to open up some of the public sector undertakings for people's participation and put a statutory ceiling on the budget deficit. The income tax exemption limit will be raised to 48,000 rupees and maximum rate of tax brought down to 40 percent.

UK Vows Help in Balance of Payments Problems

BK3004162291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Britain has assured India all help to tide over the balance of payment difficulties till the IMF loan is granted. This was conveyed by the British prime minister, Mr. John Major, to India's High Commissioner, Dr. L.N. Singhvi, when he called on him. According to sources in New Delhi, the British prime minister adopted a constructive and sympathetic approach about the needs of the Government of India.

Anti-Pakistan Processions Continue in Kashmir

BK0105035491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] In Kashmir valley, anti-Pakistan and antimilitant processions continued for the second day in Srinagar yesterday. About 1,500 people took out a procession, carrying the dead body of a terrorist, who was killed in an exchange of fire between two militant groups—the JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] and the Pakistani-backed Hizbullah Mujahidin [as heard]. They raised pro-India slogans and slogans against Pakistan and the outlawed terrorist outfit, the Hizbullah Mujahidin, which is supported by Pakistan.

There were similar processions in three different localities in Srinagar on Monday also. Official sources say that confrontation has been growing between various terrorist outfits in the Kashmir valley for the last two weeks, leading to several clashes. The difference mainly centers around the pressure from Pakistan to have the secessionists agree to accession to Islamabad. The refusal of the JKLF to toe such a line has alienated it from Pakistan and brought it into conflict with other groups.

It is reported that the JKLF for the first time used the description Pak-occupied Kashmir for the part of the state held by Pakistan instead of Azad Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted district-level advisory groups of prominent public men in the six districts of the Jammu division. These groups include members of the state legislative council, former MP's [members of parliament] and MLA's [members of legislative assembly] and other prominent people of the concerned districts. The advisory groups will discuss the development and other issues pertaining to their districts. Advisory groups for the districts and Kashmir division will be nominated later.

SJP Alleges Fundamentalist Penetration of TV

BK3004161891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The Samajwadi Janata Party, SJP, has alleged that Doordarshan [television] is not giving legitimate coverage to it, and some RSS [Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh—Hindu fundamentalist organization] elements have penetrated into the organization. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, further alleged that some election statements by BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders constitute a threat to minority and his party will bring this to the notice of the Election Commission as this amounts to violation of the code of conduct.

Iran

Majles Deputies View 'Insulting' U.S. Aid

LD3004124291 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—A group of Majles deputies here Tuesday described the U.S. assistance to the Iraqi refugees as "insulting" and deplored presence of NATO forces in Iran under the pretext of assisting the refugees.

Speaking in the open session of the Majles, several deputies demanded that the U.S. relief supplies for over one million Iraqi refugees in Iran be sent back to America.

Mahmoud Astane, deputy from Arak, Central Province, said that the supplies included 17.5 tons of second-hand clothing and blankets while the U.S. propaganda machinery had claimed that 65 tons of relief supplies had been sent to Iran.

The deputies called on executive officials of the country to send back the supplies.

A number of deputies also urged the government to end presence of NATO military forces in Iran.

A U.S. plane carrying relief supplies for the Iraqi refugees landed here last Saturday.

Academic Criticizes U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD3004175191 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—The U.S. presence in the region, especially in northern Iraq under the pretext of setting up the so-called safe havens is a "destabilizing and tension-prone factor for the region" said head of Iran's Strategic Research Center Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha here today.

"The issue of Iran and the U.S. is not something emotional or transient in nature," he told head of the Canadian International Peace and Security Institute Bernard Wood in a meeting. "As long as the Americans think they should say the last word, tension will continue around the world, and as long as big powers pursue their vested interests, peace and security will be a distant dream," said the hojjat ol-eslam. "We should not be decieved by their propaganda," he cautioned.

Noting that the end of the cold war does not necessarily mean the birth of peace and security in the world, Hoj. Kho'iniha said "as long as the roots of tension exist, the possibility of clashes will also be there."

Commentary Views Liberation of Southern Lebanon

LD3004144691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Concurrent with important developments in the Middle East region, Lebanon too has been undergoing some political and military internal developments that are directly and indirectly linked with the overall situation of the region.

The deadline by the Lebanese Government for the paramilitary forces of that country is about to end and the armed Lebanese and Palestinian groups based in the regions that were included in the first phase of the disarmament program are continuing to turn in their weapons to the armed forces of that country.

Although during the first phase of the disarmament program the paramilitary forces of the Lebanese Government succeeded in attracting the agreement of all groups to cooperate with carrying out the program, the next stage, however, which covers the southern regions and the al-Biqa' valley in eastern Lebanon, which is due to be implemented in late Khordad [22 May to 21 June], will not be so easy to carry out.

In the opinion of regional political analysts, the most important obstacle in implementing the disarmament program and in replacing the paramilitary troops with the units of the Lebanese Army is that parts of the southern regions of Lebanon are occupied by the Zionist army. And it is in this region that we find the paramilitary mercenaries of the South Lebanese Army led by Antoine Lahad, as well as the concentrated presence of armed Palestinian forces. The occupying Qods regime has come up with the pretext of its need for a security belt in the south and has ignored UN Security Council Resolution 425. [passage omitted] As for the Palestinian forces, it should be said that in spite of the fact that the leaders of most Palestinian forces have declared their readiness to cooperate with the Lebanese Government within the framework of a new government, the current government in Lebanon has not shown any flexibility so far toward this demand on the part of Palestinians. This is because it believes that the Palestinians intend to legitimize their military presence and use Lebanese territory to conduct their anti-Zionist operations through the signing of a new agreement.

But from the standpoint of the Lebanese Government, any agreement signed with Palestinian organizations will be incompatible with the al-Ta'if pact. [passage omitted] Furthermore, such an agreement will undermine the government's control over the administrative affairs of the Palestinian camps.

Political analysts in the region think that what has brought about partial success for the Lebanese Government in this phase is Syria's support and also the view shared by both the international and regional communities that there is a need for ending instability and disturbances in Lebanon. From the internal standpoint too, Islamic and resistant forces, and also the people, look at the pacification program in Lebanon as one which will put an end to the war and which could at the same time prepare the ground for all forces to cooperate, under the supervision of the government, to liberate the south of that country.

Meanwhile analysts point to the similarity of views—which emerged in Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to Damascus—held by Iran and Syria concerning the situation in Lebanon and add that the meeting of the leaders of Lebanese Islamic and national groups with the Iranian president took place within the framework of supporting unity between the groups and continuing the anti-Zionist trouble. [sentence as heard]

Taking note of the support given to the current pacification program by countries influencing the situation in Lebanon and the announcement by all groups that they are ready to cooperate, it is fitting for Lebanon's Government—simultaneously with the extension of its nations sovereignty—to mobilize its resources and work within an effective formula aimed at driving out the occupying Zionist forces from the occupied regions of that country. Because the continuation of the latter's presence and the presence of the forces of the paramilitary mercenaries affiliated with them in the south does not help the extension of national sovereignty and could even pose a danger to the programs already carried out by the government.

Azerbaijani Supreme Court Chief Meets Yazdi

LD2704122191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The head of Soviet Azerbaijan's Supreme Court, Guseyn Talybov, who is in Tehran at the head of a judicial delegation, met with the head of Iran's Judiciary, Mr. Yazdi, this morning. The two sides discussed various juidicial matters.

At that meeting, Mr. Talybov spoke about Islamic developments in the Soviet Union. Then he referred to the influence of Islam in the world and said: The East's history during the last century has shown that, in practice, no power can prevent the influence and survival of Islam. In the Soviet Union, we saw that despite the extensive struggle against religion, Islam managed to keep its independence. Furthermore, the head of judicial power spoke of the Islamic judicial system in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Talybov and his delegation also met with Justice Minister Shushtari this morning. At that meeting, the justice minister underlined the need for the establishment of an Islamic judicial system in the Islamic countries.

Pakistani Military Official Meets With Karrubi

LD2904130191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Today, Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey, chairman of the Pakistani Army's Joint Chief of Staff Committee, who is in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking military delegation, met Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker. In the meeting, he expressed gratitude over Iran's hospitality for the Iraqi refugees, stressed that Pakistan will make efforts to return them to their country, and said: Iran's hospitality on such a scale toward the Iraqi refugees is unprecedented in the world and we understand Iran's problems in this regard.

Mr. Karrubi then spoke about Iranian-Pakistani bilateral relations and the regional situation and stressed the need for Muslim unity. He said: Islamic countries must use one another's skills and capabilities to break the Islamic world's reliance on the world of arrogance.

The Majles speaker ended his remarks by calling for extensive efforts to be made by the Islamic ummah toward the realization of the rights of the Muslim and oppressed nation of Palestine.

Meets Military Commanders

LD3004114991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] This morning, the chairman of the Pakistani Armed Forces Joint Chief of Staff Committee, who is visiting Tehran at the head of a military delegation, met Commodore Shamkhani, commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the Central News Unit, at this meeting the two sides referred to the sensitive role of the two countries and also the strategic position of the naval forces of Iran and Pakistan in the region and in the Indian Ocean and emphasized the expansion of relations and all-around military cooperation.

According to this report, the chairman of the Pakistani Armed Forces Joint Chief of Staff, yesterday, while visiting our Air Force, met Brigadier General Sattari, commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At this meeting, the expansion of cooperation between the Air Forces of the two countries was discussed. Mr. Sirohey also inspected the production of the Parastu aircraft-manufacturing unit.

Ties With Saudi Reviewed After Velayati Visit

LD2704142691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1103 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the beneficient. Greetings, dear listeners. Our country's foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, ended his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. The visit, the first by a high-ranking Iranian official following the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries, took place at the invitation of the Saudi Arabian authorities, and in the wake of the major regional developments following the Persian Gulf crisis and the oil war.

The occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi Army, its political and security consequences, and Iran's wise stance on this event and on ensuing developments caused the Islamic Republic of Iran to be considered a crucial and powerful regional axis and factor for stability and tranquility in the region. Bonds between the regional states were put at the top of their foreign policies, as a long-term necessity for the growth of development and long-lasting stability in this crucial and strategic region of the world.

With the start of the imposed war, diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been beset by constant ups and downs because of Saudi Arabia's supportive policy toward the Iraqi regime. Following the massacre of the pilgrims at Mecca relations deteriorated. Eventually in 1988 they were severed completely. The main political dispute between the two countries centered on the imposed war, on Saudi Arabia's policy of limiting the number of pilgrims to the Holy Shrine, and on the way the Abrahamite hajj rituals should be performed. With the start of the oil crisis, caused by the occupation of Kuwait, and with Saudi Arabian sovereignty and territory being threatened by Iraq, the Saudi Arabian leaders realized their mistake in supporting Saddam's belligerent policies. They realized that the

GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states were unable to maintain security on their own and set aside their former antagonistic policies, and established regional cooperation and collective security as the basis for the new policy, in which Iran has a decisive role.

This development led to the meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia in New York, in the periphery of the UN General Assembly, and in Geneva and Muscat. After agreements on the number of Iranian hajj pilgrims and on holding the service for the disavowal of infidels, the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries became possible.

The visit is also made within the framework of the foreign policy of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, for the expansion of general cooperation with regional states. Thus the main part of the discussions between the two countries' ministers has centered on bilateral economic cooperation, as well as the regional security structure.

Talks with Saudi Arabia, the largest member of the GCC and one of its influential members, are considered important because oil prices can be stabilized with the cooperation of this country and other GCC members. By expanding regional economic cooperation and creating a common regional security structure, the ground can be prepared for economic development, political stability, and stable security in the region, and can eliminate grounds for foreign interference and foreign forces, which have always entered the region on the pretext of the existence of insecurity.

Commerce Minister Returns From Visit to Damascus

LD3004114291 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji returned home Monday night at the end of a six-day visit to Damascus.

Speaking after arrival Vahaji said that in his talks with the Syrian officials he discussed issues related to exports, imports, ways to meet the needs of the Iranian organizations in Syria and holding of Iran's exclusive fair in Damascus.

Vahaji who is the Iranian co-chairman of Iran-Syria Joint Economic Commission, said that the two sides followed up articles of the last letter of understanding signed between the two countries.

Bank Chief, Bahraini Premier View Cooperation

LD2904212291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Mutual ties, the regional economic and monetary situation, and ways of increasing economic and banking cooperation between Iran and Bahrain were discussed at a meeting between the director-general of Bank Melli Iran and the Bahraini prime minister.

During the meeting, which took place today and which was also attended by the minister of post, telegraph, and telephones and the governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, the Bahraini premier referred to the importance of new, post-war infrastructure projects in the region and coordination in economic reconstruction and the growth of the industries of regional countries. He declared his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in the commercial, economic, and banking fields.

Petrochemicals Industry Seeks Foreign Credits

LD2904145691 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Iran has decided to use foreign credits and technical knowhow for developing its petrochemical industry during the 5-year plan launched last year, a senior official said today. "Of the dlrs 7.5 billion [bn] required for the petrochemical projects, dlrs 3 bn will be made up of foreign credits and dlrs 2 bn from government resources, while the remaining dlrs 2.5 bn has already been injected into the semi-finished projects," Ahmad Rahgozar, managing director of the National Petrochemical Industries Company (NPIC) said.

Addressing a press conference, Rahgozar said Iran's petrochemical production reached 3.33 million tons last year including one million tons of chemical fertilizers. He said since Iran announced its plan to allow the private sector to participate in petrochemical projects, many firms have forwarded their applications, and even some foreign investors have announced their readiness to cooperate with Iranian firms.

The NPIC managing-director said Iranian banks have promised to provide 60 to 70 percent of the plan's total expenditures in rials. The official saying the rate of hard currency allocated for the project will be calculated as 600 rials per dollar assured would-be investors of NPIC's commitment to support them.

Import of Parasitic Fish Examined

*Government's 'Tragic Negligence'

91AS0822A London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Text] In the months of Bahman and Esfand [21 January 1991-20 March 1991], the fishery company, which is operated under the supervision of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, sold throughout the country for human consumption 11,000 tons of imported frozen fish contaminated with dangerous parasites. According to health officials, the effects of this tragic negligence shall remain as hundreds of thousands of family members will be consuming this contaminated fish for a long time. The contamination of the imported fish from Argentina became apparent when the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education announced on the last day of the year that the fish was contaminated with parasites and consumption must seriously be avoided. But the

announcement that was broadcast on Islamic Republic Radio in a news segment several weeks after the fish had been sold (1400 hours, 29 Esfand [20 March]) was not heard by most when, unfortunately, the tainted fish had all been sold a long time before.

The announcement of the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education was not published by any newspaper in the country, the officials of the Islamic government preferring to keep this disgraceful negligence silent. The only report in this connection in the national press was in KEYHAN (8 Farvardin [28 March]), in a column entitled "A View in Passing," which uncovered this issue. KEYHAN wrote: "May God save all those who have consumed this dangerous, contaminated fish."

KEYHAN criticized the representatives of the Majles for their silence in this connection and lack of questioning of the officials.

It is interesting that the imported fish from Argentina was of the "hake" variety, of which five tons were sold in northern cities, mostly in Tehran.

Although the distribution of contaminated food in the society and the lack of attention by the Islamic government have had a long history, negligence of this magnitude had never occurred before.

Also, following the nuclear explosion at the Chernobyl power plant in the Soviet Union, 500 tons of tea from northern Iran contaminated with carcinogenic radioactive material was returned to Iran after being exported to Kuwait and was consumed by people inside the country.

These are two examples of the tragedies that have been somewhat exposed, but hundreds of other cases are being essentially ignored or covered up. According to an Iranian physician, it is impossible to estimate the tremendous life and financial damages from the diseases that will appear as a result of such negligence.

*Need to Maintain Public Trust

91AS0822B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
28 Mar 91 p 14

[Text]

A Brief Overview of the Import of Contaminated Fish from Argentina: The Necessity of Maintaining Public Trust

In the final months of 1369 [early 1991], the fishery company, which is under the control and supervision of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, purchased and imported about 11,000 tons of foreign frozen fish called "hake" from Argentina and distributed and sold it to the oppressed people through the labor and employees cooperatives and the "town and country" stores.

When all or a major part of the imported fish was sold in long lines, the news of the Islamic Republic at 1400 on 20 March, based on an announcement by the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, announced that the fish was contaminated with parasites, dangerous for consumption and must not be used or sold. Many did not hear this report, and some had, unfortunately, consumed the inedible, contaminated fish, God save them.

The uncontrolled high prices of red meat and chicken and also the customs and traditions of New Year's Eve encouraged people to use fish in the last months of 1369 [early 1991] more than ever before. The increase in demand and the misuse by some government and nongovernment sectors, including the cooperative and private sectors which are involved in supplying fish, resulted in the price of this food item having a significant increase compared to prior months and years. So far, the people have considered and still consider the goods distributed by the government organizations and institutions among the cooperatives and large stores, such as "town and country" and "Qods," as, firstly, less expensive and, secondly, as guaranteed in terms of quality and safety. The propaganda promotes that the goods in these stores are sold to the people at "government prices."

The trust of the people in an institution such as the Ministry of Jihad and also in the government and cooperative stores has resulted in their willingness to stand in line for hours for every item which is distributed and being able to use that item with peace of mind.

This trust of the people is due to the legitimacy and acceptance that such institutions have gained in the Islamic revolution and in fact this trust is the people's trust in the officials of the country.

Considering the above and what people have been informed of, several questions need to be asked:

1. Considering the existence of huge seafood resources in the north and south of the country and the existence of fish from fish propagation complexes, is there a need to send foreign currency abroad to buy frozen fish from foreign countries?

2. For what reason is the foreign currency that should be spent on fundamental affairs, such as developing and equipping the fishery refrigeration warehouses and buying and producing fishing equipment and ships, is spent on importing inedible, tainted fish?

3. What is the source of the foreign currency to import fish and how is it calculated?

4. How much did the Hake fish that is sold at 100 tomans per kg cost?

5. Are such so-called trade operations justifiable economically and is there a rationale behind them?

6. Is not the import of goods which we produce in abundance ourselves contrary to the development of the fisheries and industrial fishing and providing protein for the society and also the export of fish abroad and obtaining foreign currency?

7. Where and how do the supervisory and controlling systems of the executive organizations respond should violations take place and money from the treasury of Muslims be wasted?

8. Should the representatives of the people in the Majles at least not question the related officials in such cases?

These and many other questions, which require the answers from leaders and those in charge of the affairs, come to the minds of experts on economy and fisheries.

The officials and administrators of the revolutionary society at every level are responsible for preventing distortions and the decline of the public trust in the executive organizations and for leading the society towards health and prosperity in various areas.

*Organ of Feda'iyan-e Khalq Ceases Publication

91AS0809B London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] The weekly publication AKSARIYYAT, the organ of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq (majority) Organization, halted at the beginning of this year. The editorial board of AKSARIYYAT announced in its final editorial that in accordance with the decision made by the organization, from now on instead of the two publications, KAR and AKSARIYYAT, only one publication, KAR, would be published and AKSARIYYAT would cease publication.

In its seven years of publication, AKSARIYYAT published an objective account of much of the internal news of the country, without any commentary. Also, as was written in the last issue: "Without seeking to, in its seven years, AKSARIYYAT had accepted responsibilities which it carried out with various degrees of success. This seven-year period coincided with our separation from our previous beliefs. These beliefs were universal and, therefore, could not help but affect the press."

*RESALAT Report on 26 Feb Majles Session

91AS0687A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Feb 91 p 5

[Text]

Report on the Open Session of the Majles Yesterday

The legislative and parliamentary division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian presiding.

In this session, following the speeches of the representatives of Ahvaz and Mashhad, the draft legislation on the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperatives (returned from the Council of Guardians) was discussed and amended to conform to the views of the Council of Guardians.

Below you will read the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers and the ratifications of the Majles.

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, the Representative of the People of Ahvaz

He said: Today the region witnesses the crimes of the great Satan, the world-devouring United States, which in its attempt to dominate has violated all human principles and, contrary to the ratifications of the Security Council, has engaged in the destruction and elimination of the economic resources of the defenseless people of Iraq. The free-thinking nations of the world have realized today more than ever before the nature of the murdering, criminal Bush, who was hiding behind the slogan of defending human rights. Also, the Muslim nations have recognized more clearly the disuniting and fraudulent face of the American Islam of Fahd, who has betrayed the two holy shrines, entertained the great Satan and placed the wealth of the oppressed people of Arabia at its disposal. He has witnessed the slaughter of the oppressed Muslims and is proud of such a massacre. He is a traitor who, in order to better serve the United States, mercilessly martyrs hundreds of pilgrims to the House of God and places the land of divine inspiration at the disposal of infidels. It is most astonishing that Fahd, who lacks the competence even to preserve his own government, would like to envision the future government of Iraq. This idiot must be told that he must take to his grave his hopes of establishing a Wahabi government in Iraq. The destiny of the people of Iraq will be determined by the people of Iraq.

In continuation, he praised the neutral policy of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf war and said: Considering the identity of the two sides in the war, why should we not follow such a policy? On one side is the ambition of the rulers of Iraq, who gave an excuse to the United States and its allies to resort to the authorization of the United Nations and destroy the resources of Muslims, and on the other side is the criminal United States, which is known to our people better than any other nation. Hence, the best policy and the best path is the one chosen by our government.

He continued: The noble, martyr-nurturing people of Iran displayed their support for the policy of the government in their magnificent march on 22 Bahman [11 February] and by their active presence, while supporting the compassionate officials of the country, showed that complaining and questioning the policies of the government do not solve the problems. At this point in time, given the sensitivity of the region, it is the duty of everyone to support the serving and competent government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The great leader of the revolution said in the first meeting of the second Assembly of Experts for Leadership: "The government and the officials must not be left alone at this present sensitive stage." He also said: "For anyone to attack or accuse the officials is tantamount to treason." Also, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Ahmad, the remnant of the imam, who was at the side of the imam for years and who understands the imam's line well, said in his speech prior to the Friday prayer at the site of the imam's tomb: "We

defend the government with all our being. We are not dead, that we should abandon Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. We will not allow things to happen because someone wishes them to be so." I am certain that these words interpret the line of the imam. If the imam were among us, he would have said the same thing Haj Ahmad said. May God grant the remnant of the imam a long life, health and honor, so that, God willing, at the side of the great leader of the revolution and the head of the government, he can be an interpreter of the imam's line.

The government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in its short life has been able to solve many problems. In eliminating the other problems, is it possible to simply, by shouting slogans, overcome the destruction of many years by the previous regime and the eight-year destruction of the war? It requires the planning, self sacrifice, hard work and empathy of the officials and the support of the people, which, thank God, exists. We hope that with the government policy in the economic domain, we shall achieve social justice and economic independence.

In another part of his speech, Musavi asked the society of teachers and the government to take note of the Qom seminary and added: The role of the seminary and its students in the victory and establishment of the revolution is not unknown to anyone. If we want the seminary to respond to the needs of the Islamic society, we must attend to it. At least one-thousandth of the attention paid to the universities must be paid to the seminary. I do not want to say that our universities have no problems, that requires another discussion altogether. We have thousands of seminary students, but they do not have even minimal resources. We know individuals who ranked second place in the examinations of the seminary who today, unfortunately, in order to make a living, spend most of their time on non-seminary activities. The theological students have problems with such basic needs as housing and books. It is true that man's character grows in poverty and problems, but there should be a limit. We can no longer leave the seminary students in such hardship.

Addressing the director of the Social Security Agency, he said: The Province of Khuzestan is an individual province with a large number of factories and workers, but, unfortunately, the people lack health and treatment resources. Recently, one of the workers had an accident and was taken off in a pickup truck, because there were no ambulances nor medical equipment, and he died on the way. It is unfortunate that, despite the budget at the disposal of the Social Security Agency, we witness such bitter incidents.

Brother Dr. Gharazi, you inaugurated the building of a hospital in Ahvaz, but there is no sign of it. Why? Why should Khuzestan, with a population of 3 million and major factories, lack a hospital for its workers?

In conclusion, he made reminders to the executive officials in connection with the elimination of problems of his constituency.

Qorban'ali Salehabadi, the Representative of the People of Mashhad

Qorban'ali Salehabadi, the representative of the people of Mashhad, was the second and final pre-agenda speaker of the Majles in yesterday's session. Referring to the sending of a Majles delegation in the 10 days of Fajr to other countries, he said: Although the serious efforts of this delegation were reported in much of the international media, unfortunately, the domestic media did not give it much coverage, and it was not even given importance by the Voice and Vision. Also, in recent days, the speaker of the Majles headed a high-ranking delegation to Pakistan. But this visit, as well, was not given the necessary coverage in the Voice and Vision's continuing efforts to downplay the activities of the Majles. According to the Constitution ratified in 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980], and in discussions concerning it in the Assembly of Experts, the Voice and Vision belongs to all strata, including the representatives of the people. Attention has been given to this issue in Article 175 of the Constitution, and in it the grounds for generating growth and the exchange of ideas have been contemplated. Unfortunately, due to the mismanagement and bad decisions of the present management of the Voice and Vision, every day these limitations increase, and their continuation is not in the best interests of the country, because one of the main principles of the Islamic revolution, that is, freedom, is ignored. Consequently, the grounds for the intellectual and cultural growth of the people will decrease, thus paving the way for the people to abandon the revolution. Perhaps the main backbone of the Islamic revolution was, and will continue to be, God willing, the people. They have sent their representatives to the Majles with 18 million votes, exceeding the number of presidential votes and those cast for the second Assembly of Experts. The officials and operators of the Voice and Vision must know that attention to the Majles is, in fact, attention to the people and safeguards the most important guarantee of the Islamic revolution.

Salehabadi added: The director general of the Voice and Vision is not even able to respond to the letter of the representatives of the Majles. For example, six months ago, a letter signed by the [public] relations council of of the representatives of Khorasan was sent to the present director of the Voice and Vision, stating that the majority of the representatives of Khorasan, despite the passage of two and a half years since the third Majles began, have not been able to speak even for one minute on Mashhad television, so that at least the people of the constituencies of the cities of Khorasan can see the faces of the representatives on television. This letter has remained unanswered so far, even though one of the duties of a strong director in the Islamic and popular regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to respond positively or negatively to the letters of individuals, including the representatives of the people.

He added: Now the question arises, when the elected representatives of the people, each of whom have the

votes of hundreds of thousands of people, cannot make use of the Voice and Vision to speak to the people, can the people themselves make use of this medium? The Constitution has instructed the mass media to create the grounds for discussions and constructive criticism, which will result in the growth of ideas and opinions, because a society reaches spiritual and material growth when the exchange of ideas and a variety of views exist in it and when political, economic, cultural and social issues are examined and criticized by various factions, so that ultimately the people can reason and choose. This is the best method. And the Koran says: "Happy are those who listen to words and choose the best." When sound, legitimate freedom exists in a society, the people will choose the best, in which case, the statement of our imam will materialize. He said: "The standard is the vote of the people." In other words, under such circumstances, the people will choose conscientiously and intelligently. Then, when the Koran provides us with such directions and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran says the standard is the vote of the people, why do those in the media act in a way that appears biased and restricted in the minds of the people? I request that, considering the fact that the position of all authorities and major organizations of the county have been outlined and defined in the Constitution, all the officials be taken into consideration by the media within that framework, in which case, there will be no monopoly in the media. In another part of his speech, Salehabadi referred to the Persian Gulf war and said: The Security Council has so far issued 11 resolutions condemning Iraq. Some of these resolutions explicitly state that the multinational forces under the auspices of the United Nations are permitted to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. But they have gone and destroyed all the vital economic resources of Iraq and have even targeted women, children and elderly people in shelters with their barbarian missile attacks and devastating bombs, terming this action the liberation of Kuwait.

He emphasized: The United States and England intend to dominate all the oil resources of the region and overthrow the independent countries of the region that do not accept the domination of these two countries. In the same connection, a high-ranking European official said recently in an official session that the Americans have an objective beyond the driving of Iraq out of Kuwait. The Americans intend to gain full domination over the oil resources of the region. The Americans and the British must know that during the ten days of Fajr, we were in the Middle East region, among the waves of Muslims in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and other countries. They have a deep-seated hatred for the Americans and the British, and the whole region is prepared for a long-term, underground guerilla war against the interests of the Americans in the region. The Saudi family must know that we have heard that even the people of Yemen intend to use light weapons and, in a collective manner in the form of demonstrations, move towards Jidda and Riyadh to put an end to the rule of the Saudi family. Mr. Mubarak must know that today he sits in the place of a person (Jamal Abd al-Naser) who claimed and thought of the idea of destroying Zionism in its embryonic form and throwing it in the sea. But, unfortunately, today Mr. Mubarak leads the multinational forces in the Middle East region, and now the Egyptian forces are fighting at the side of the British and American forces in Iraq and Kuwait. The Egyptian people will not tolerate this. In recent days, we have witnessed the widespread demonstrations of the students in Cairo. Even though the Egyptian police try to suppress these demonstrations, they should know that this struggle, this hatred and this revolutionary anger will continue, and the Americans must also know that they have no place in the Middle East.

He added: Today, the whole region is unsafe for the Americans and the British. Do they not think that the Palestinians intend to engage in a united underground action against the U.S. interests? We are very sorry to see the Europeans fall into the trap of the Americans. In particular, the French government was not expected to take its place, as it did, at the side of the Americans. The French people were viewed differently in the Middle East, and they might not yet have lost it. Is it right for the European people to be unable to come and go in the Middle East because of the hatred that has been created? Unfortunately, some of the friendly countries who were expected to take a proper position sided with the multinational forces in this regard. We expected our friendly, brother country of Syria, in the same way that it condemned the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, to also condemn the actions of the multinational forces.

Ratification

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the selection of two representatives to supervise the use of $1.5 billion in housing facilities to build five agricultural sugar cane factories and supporting facilities, for which Messrs Zali and Kabiri were elected.

The second item on the agenda was the referral to the judicial and legal committee of the draft bill to confer authority to select the heads of the Justice Department attorney centers on the head of the judicial branch, in accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution. This referral was not ratified.

The legislative proposal to establish the Ministry of Cooperatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (returned from the distinguished Council of Guardians) was the third item on the agenda, of which some articles were amended to conform to the views of the Council of Guardians.

Article 23 was amended as follows: "A member or members of a cooperative may transfer shares to a new individual or individuals. Priority will be given to members of the cooperative."

Based on Article 25: "Of the net profit, 4 percent will be deposited in the cooperative fund as the cooperative and educational fee."

Note 2, Article 17, was amended as follows: "The Ministry of Cooperatives shall be responsible to prepare within six months the organization appropriate for its ministry, within the framework of this law, and to have it approved by the administrative and employment affairs agency. The necessary expenditures for the establishment of the duties of the Ministry shall be provided from the following sources: (1) from budget funds and other financial sources existing in the organizations and agencies cited in Note 1; (2) from the cooperative fund which will be transferred to the Ministry of Cooperatives, up to a maximum ceiling of 1 billion rials; (3) from the funds collected as 4 percent net profit, cited in Paragraph 3 of Article 25."

Also, based on the amendment of Article 68, "all cooperative companies and unions are responsible to make their bylaws conform to this law, within a maximum period of six months after the ratification of this law, and upon approval by the Ministry of Cooperatives to register the changes in their bylaws. Otherwise, they will not be eligible for the benefits and regulations of the cooperative sector cited in this law." The next item on the agenda was a report on the second round of discussions of the committee on the internal bylaws "concerning the draft bill to attach one note to Article 106 of the internal bylaws of the Majles," which was postponed to the next session.

Pakistan

Protest Lodged on Afghan Territorial 'Violations'

BK0105104091 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 May 91 p 8

[Text] Islamabad, April 30—The Afghan Charge d'Affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office Tuesday and strong protests were lodged against the repeated blatant violations of Pakistan territory by Afghan aircraft and firing of missiles, mortars and rockets between March 30 and April 21.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was asked to inform his government that the reponsibility for the serious consequences arising from such deliberate and unprovoked attacks would rest entirely on the Kabul regime and the Government of Pakistan would take all necessary measures to defend the lives and properties of its citizens.

The Government of Pakistan also rejected the protest of Kabul regime in which it was alleged that on April 21 one Pakistani jet aircraft had violated the Afghan airspace. Afghan allegation after investigation was found to be totally baseless.

USSR Envoy's Remarks on Afghanistan Cited

BK3004145291 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Apr 91 p 12

[Report by Zahid Hussain on interview with Viktor P. Yakunin, Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, by unidentified correspondents in Rawalpindi on 29 April]

[Text] Rawalpindi, April 29—Viktor P. Yakunin, the Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan, said the Afghan Interim Government [AIG] Prime Minister Prof Abdur Rab Rasul Sayyaf was the main obstacle in the way to finding a political solution of the 12-year-old Afghan issue.

Talking to newsmen informally at the ceremony held here Monday evening to commemorate man's first flight into the outer space, the Soviet Ambassador said, all the three resolutions of the United Nations call for a political solution of the Afghan conflict. In an annoyed tone the ambassador said "Sayyaf is the obstacle in the way to political solution of the Afghan problem. He said the United Nations has barred the use of arms in Afghanistan but still "people were pursuing military options thinking of achieving a military victory," the ambassador said.

He said his government and the Government of Pakistan were for political solution of the Afghan problem. The president of Pakistan has also underlined the need to find such a solution, the ambassador observed.

Mr. Yakunin said a political solution to the strife-torn country could only be achieved if all the parties to the Afghan conflict sit at the table and talk without the exclusion of anybody. This was an obvious reference to the Mujahidin's condition for the talks that calls for the Najib government to step down before any talks could be held.

To a question whether the Soviet Union was still suplying arms to the Afghan Government, he replied in affirmative adding that as long as Saudi Arabia and United States give arms to Mujahidin, USSR will continue its assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan. He added his country was for the negative symmetry but the other parties did not agree to it.

To a question about the AIG, the ambassador said they were a stumbling bloc in the Pak-Soviet relationship. "The fight is between the Afghans and Afghans" and that would not be solved by the force of arms but by sitting at a table. He said that the problem could not be solved by Saudi Arabia or America but by the Afghan peoples themselves.

To a question about the visit of a USSR's envoy to Islamabad to hold talks on the Afghan issue, the ambassador said he did not know anything of this visit. However, he said there was Pakistan's mission in Moscow and the Soviet Union's mission in Pakistan and they were engaged in consultations with each other.

When asked to comment on the Indian atrocities in Kashmir, the ambassador declined to comment. However, he said if Pakistan and India could reach other agreements they should also sit at a table and solve this issue as well.

Soviet Expert on Afghan Affairs To Visit

BK2704121691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Apr 91 pp 1, 9

[Text] Islamabad, April 26—The Soviet Union has informed Pakistan that their top man of Afghan affairs Mr. Kozyrez will shortly visit Islamabad for talks on Afghan issue, to carry forward the process started by UN Secretary General's personal representative Benon Sevan, it was learned here, on Saturday.

The Secretary General has sought detailed report from his personal representative who has already completed his consultations in Islambad, Kabul, Moscow, and Tehran. According to reliable sources the Soviet diplomat will visit Islamabad sometime next month.

Foreign Office sources say that while Pakistan is eager for early resolution of the Afghan conflict it has no ready proposals to be made in this respect.

Elaborating, they say that Pakistan strongly feels that the United Nations should actively involve itself for political settlement of the Afghan issue, adding that Pakistan's peace initiative is mainly confined to creating a conducive environment, and that its current consultatious in various world capitals are primarily meant to put the Afghan issue on the front burner.

Pakistan believes that the added dimension which the United Nations has acquired as a result of its role in the Gulf war, can help it to play an enhanced role in the war-torn Afghanistan.

According to the sources, Pakistan would like to listen to the Soviet envoy, and has no plan or specific formula to offer for the resolution of the crisis.

According to sources, Germany, Japan and other donor countries are also attaching new conditions for assistance to Afghan Mujahidin and refugees in line with the Americans action, creating an added urgency for Islamabad to seek solution of the Afghan conflict.